

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LVIII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 17th July, at 28, Nanjing Road, Hongkew, Shanghai, the wife of MANUEL E. S. PERRIER, of a daughter.

On the 21st July, at No. 25, Range Road, Shanghai, the wife of D. GOLDMAN, I.M. Customs, of a son.

On the 20th July, at 13, Albany Road, Hongkong, the wife of A. PIERRE MARTY, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

On the 14th July, at Shanhaikwan, from the effects of an accident, HENRY RICHARD MACNEE, Lieutenant, Indian Medical Service, attached 30th Punjab Infantry, aged 27 years.

On the 18th July, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, KARL, son of ARTHUR BIETENHOLZ, aged 4 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 13, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French mail of June 26th, per M. M. steamer *Tonkin*, arrived on the 27th ult., (32 days); and the English mail of the 3rd ult., arrived per P. & O. steamer *Valetta* on the 31st ult., (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK

Dr. Yersin returned to Saigon by the M.M. steamer *Tonkin*.

The U.S. cruisers *Ruleigh*, *Albany* and *Cincinnati* are shortly expected in these waters.

Sir Ernest Satow, K.C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Minister to Peking, is expected here next Thursday.

The British battleship *Vengeance* arrived on July 26th from home for a three years' commission on this station.

The U.S. transport *Sherman* brought out from San Francisco on her last voyage \$1,500,000 worth of the new Filipino pesos.

Admiral Bayle will relieve Admiral Maréchal, who has been recalled, as commander-in-chief of the French squadron in the Far East.

Dame Deborah Bowring, widow of Sir John Bowring, a former Governor of Hongkong, has died at Exeter at the age of 85, leaving an estate valued at £13,392.

The heat on the 25th ult. was scorching, and several of the Sherwood Foresters had to fall out during the parade on the New Parade Ground. Two were taken away in the ambulance.

Pirates attacked a Hongkong junk near the Bogue Forts, in Chinese waters, and stole arms and clothing to the value of about \$250. The pirates fired their rifles, but only in the air, and no one was hurt.

Captain Pitts, a passenger on the steamer *Antenor*, from the Far East, was seriously ill on board with Bright's disease when the vessel reached Colombo. A local priest was sent for, as Captain Pitts was reported to be dying.

According to the latest Japanese papers, the appointment of Marquis Ito and two other Statesmen to the Privy Council is due to the Emperor's desire to have them close at hand to consult with in the present grave position of affairs.

We learn by the mail that the sudden death at New York of Mr. W. Graham, who for many years was Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s representative at Foochow, was due to heat apoplexy. Mr. Graham fell down in the street, death being almost instantaneous.

According to a Reuter's telegram, dated July 28th, the *Standard* says that the text of a Convention between Russia and Japan has been published in Berlin; the Convention is alleged to have been signed when General Kuropatkin visited Tokyo. This alleged Convention was published by certain Japanese journals a month ago and was subsequently described as a pure fabrication.

A Canton despatch to Shanghai reports that the sudden withdrawal by Viceroy Shum of so large a sum of money from Canton—a million and a quarter taels—for relieving the distress in Kwang-i, has caused a dearth of silver in the former city, so that native banks and merchants are all feeling its effects on trade. To such a degree has the money market suffered that people have to pay interest on short loans at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum.

The Emperor of Japan has contributed 1,000 yen to the Welcome Society which is stated to have rendered valuable services to 10,000 foreign visitors to Japan.

The joint service of the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies will be discontinued from the 1st of August, from which date each Company will have its own separate counter where telegrams will be accepted for transmission by either Company's line.

The *Mainichi* says that the British Minister who was received in audience by the Emperor on the 15th ult., presented a representation regarding the opening of Wiju. The Minister received instructions from London to make the representation. The Emperor referred the matter to the Foreign Minister on the matter. The French minister to Seoul was also received in audience, but nothing has leaked out regarding what transpired during his audience.

The *Universal Gazette* is informed by its Peking correspondent that during the special examination of talented men for public service, those candidates that quoted phrases from or followed the literary style of the works and publications of Kang Yu-wi and Liang Chi-chao were promptly "plucked." The same treatment was accorded those that praised the western systems of government to an enthusiastic degree and those that quoted the names of leaders of rebellions and revolutions in Europe and America.

A Moukden despatch, the *N.-C. Daily News* says, states that the Chinese officials in the various cities and towns of the three Manchurian provinces have received secret instructions from their Tartar Generals to raise as many able bodied men as possible within their respective jurisdictions, whilst arms of modern make have also been distributed to the officials concerned. It is computed that the Chinese authorities in Manchuria have already distributed in secret at least 60,000 stands of Mausers with 200 cartridges for each so that in the provincial capitals Moukden (Fengtien province), Kirin (Kirin province) and Tsitsihar (Heilu goliang province) there is quite a dearth in firearms of modern pattern. Whether these newly-enlisted men are for the purpose of assisting the Russians in the event of a war with Japan is stated to be an open question.

Pirates are beginning to make their presence felt on the West River again. On the 27th ult. we reported the looting of a Hongkong junk near the Bogue Forts, in Chinese waters, and now the master of another Hongkong craft, licensed pass-boat No. 295, has informed the police that on the evening of the 26th inst., half-way between Canton and this port, he was attacked by pirates in a fishing-junk. They fired shots from muskets across his bows, compelling him to leave to. The pass-boat was then boarded by about fifteen of the pirates, who tied up the crew by the queues in batches of four, drove them into the hold, and kept them imprisoned there for over three hours under a guard of three men armed with revolvers the while the boat was looted. Cargo, money, and personal effects to the total amount of \$4,000 were stolen by the pirates, who eventually sailed away in the direction of Canton.

ENGLAND'S FISCAL POLICY.

(Daily Press, 27th July)

One of the most serious disadvantages of party government as it is understood in England is the difficulties it places in the way of the efficient discussion beforehand of questions of importance to the country at large, which have not previously become matters of party. This weakness has been more especially noteworthy in the important subjects which during the past few months have engaged the attention of Parliament. The first of these was the education system, which was acknowledged on both sides of the House to be sadly in need of regulation, and which up to the time when the Prime Minister introduced his epoch-making bill had been considered by all as a matter outside party, but which nevertheless, of all matters debated within the Houses for the last ten years, became reduced to the one where mere party strife waxed warmest. Not less remarkable, and in its lasting effects not unlikely to be productive of the gravest of consequences for good or evil to the entire Empire, were the few words of warning uttered by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN when remarking on the deliberate attempt of seeking to coerce Canada in her fiscal relations with the mother country. As indicated by a letter written at the time by Sir ROBERT GIFFEN, who all his official life has been a consistent free trader, successive British Governments by their mistakes have brought the Empire into such an *impasse* that we have had to stand by and permit our relations with our own colonies to be not only discussed but actually made the subject of threats. Some eighteen years ago, when Mr. CLEVELAND assisted by the American free traders was proclaiming in the States the gospel of "Tariff for Revenue," free traders at this side of the Atlantic stood aghast. "This will never do," they said. "If America go in for free trade our business will be spoiled; we shall never be able to stand against her, if in addition to her other advantages she adds on freedom of trade." In those days protection was simply acting on the defensive, and the modern system of militant protectionism had not yet been invented. The fears of the British free traders had, however, their effect; and when modern protection was again brought forward in Congress, it had become a very different thing from the old-fashioned protection of CORDEN'S time: it was not any longer a question now between free trade and protection, but one between ordinary trade and the new militant system, where prohibitory duties against imports were made to fit in with subsidised exports. It is true that we not only find our products driven to compete in the markets of the world by goods artificially cheapened, but even our home markets are flooded with colourable imitations, produced, it is true, at the cost most or less immediate of the exporting country. Now it is quite true that, sooner or later, this costly method of carrying on an export trade must work its own ruin, and there are many indications that the reaction has already commenced. A poor nation cannot afford to be protectionist, and even Germany's efforts to capture the industries of the world are proving increasingly burdensome to her home productiveness. According to the modern school of free-traders we have only to wait till the process has run its course, when all things will return to their pristine condition, and we shall once again enjoy, not only our own, but a great deal more as compensation for what we have been meanwhile deprived of. This is a very comfortable doctrine, and contains the elements of truth. It is

not, however, the whole truth, because there are some things which, once lost, history shows us can never be restored. To causes of this nature was due the decay of Italy under the later Empire. It became cheaper to work the fields of Italy by slave labour than by that of free men. But this was only the first stage of the process: by and by home labour ceased altogether, and the nation had to depend on supplies from abroad. This is the danger that in these modern days England is brought to face. The consequence in Italy was that the once proud free worker of Italy was reduced to a stage little above serfdom, and degenerated to a mere pensioner of the State. *Panem et Circenses* was now his only cry, and to more vigorous peoples passed over the rule of the State. Now we see something of the same process of physical decay going on in modern England. The modern townsman is not so vigorous as his predecessor, and does not exhibit the same ability to hold his own either in war or commerce. This is a matter above one of mere economics: cheap living and cheap production are not the *summum bonum* of a community. When the moral and physical tone of a nation have once been exhausted, all history teaches that the end is within measurable distance. In our connection with our colonies England possesses the means of regeneration at hand, and has every motive for drawing closer the bonds of association with young communities enjoying a more wholesome life. Germany, a hostile outlooker, grasped this fact sooner than did the homeland, and her policy has been insidiously turned to separating the interests of the two. Such is part, but a main part of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S recent suggestions. There are things above mere *panem et Circenses*, and there is a higher national faith—that of being true to ourselves—than is to be found in the shibboleth of the petty Englanders. This, and not the doctrines of a pretended free trade, is what is really being called in question.

MANCHURIA.

(Daily Press, 28th July.)

Australian papers which reached this Colony yesterday quote a letter just received by an officer of the late Australian naval contingent, which served in the North China campaign, from Dr. G. E. MORRISON, *Times* correspondent at Peking. A passage in this letter appears worthy of reproduction as an untrammelled expression of the celebrated correspondent's opinion on affairs up North. Dr. MORRISON wrote: "Manchuria is gone hopelessly. England and America may make academic protests, but the fact is accomplished. Japan will, we think, do nothing; and there can be no doubt that both England and America are averse to war between Japan and Russia. This is the year when the relative strength of Japan is at its greatest, and if the opportunity is missed such a chance may never recur." Dr. MORRISON, it will be seen, expresses himself, in the last sentence, in no uncertain terms as to the position in which Japan is placed. At the same time he says that a Russo-Japanese war would be unwelcome alike to Great Britain and to the United States. There can be no doubt at all as to the truth of this statement. It seems perfectly impossible that such a war, unless it terminates in a signal and speedy victory for Japan (as to the improbability of which a special contributor expresses himself strongly in another column to-day), can remain confined to the two original con-

testants; and the calamities following upon the entanglement of other Powers in the strife are only too easy to foresee. But it will not improve the situation merely to stand aside and watch Russia flout Japanese susceptibilities by crossing from Manchuria into Corea and gradually working her way South. Only Russo-maniacs in either Britain or the States can look forward with satisfaction to the establishment of Russia in South Corea. Granted that Manchuria is "hopelessly gone": Russia has still to gain international recognition of the fact, and this is not worthless to her, even though she has already the substance. Vague remarks like Lord CRANBORNE'S in the House of Commons last week are not likely to do much good. With Sir ERNEST SATOW'S return to Peking, we hope to hear of a line of policy much more forcible, one to which Russia will not be able to reply with the usual more or less polite mendacities for which she is famous as a nation. Nothing can work more strongly to avert a Russo-Japanese struggle than a firm attitude on the part of Great Britain, and therefore it is most earnestly to be trusted that nothing will occur to precipitate a catastrophe before the British Minister gets back to Peking armed with those full powers and definite instructions which rumour has given to him. It is impossible to conceal from ourselves that the faltering of British policy now means the disintegration of China at no distant date, a disintegration by which we have very much to lose, even if we are willing to burden ourselves with part of the spoils of the unfortunate Empire.

THE RUMOURED IMMINENCE OF WAR.

(Daily Press, 29th July.)

The rumours of the imminence of war in the North rest mainly, we opine, on the expectation that the St. Petersburg Cabinet, when it receives the report of General KUROPATKIN, the Minister of War, who is due to arrive in St. Petersburg to-day on his return from the Far East, will make a pronouncement on the Manchurian question which will once and for all dispose of the idea of a peaceful evacuation and be tantamount to a challenge to the Powers who in diplomatic contests have endeavoured to thwart her aims and compel the performance of the promises contained in the Manchurian Convention of 1902. In the series of articles we conclude to-day on the subject, written by one who is closely in touch and evidently thoroughly imbued with Russian sentiment on the subject, we no doubt have an accurate record of the views which obtain among the Russians in Manchuria and elsewhere; but while the writer has given us much important information as to the preparations made for the struggle which has long been regarded as inevitable, we question whether many persons outside Manchuria will be persuaded that the striking of the first blow is now more a question of days or maybe hours, as the writer would have us believe. True it is that in Japan, Russia's doings in Manchuria and on the Yalu have engendered a dangerously hostile feeling, but we think our contributor and those who adopt his view of the situation greatly underrate the ability of the Government at Tokyo to control and hold in check the ebullient passions of the people.

In the concluding article of the series which we publish to-day we get a thoroughly Russian view of the perfidy of England. In his first article our contributor told us

that Japan's Navy had been built at England's cost, but not an atom of evidence did he adduce in support of this astonishing assertion, which we have no hesitation in describing as pure fiction. Japan's Navy has been built entirely at her own cost, and its great expansion in recent years was made possible out of the indemnity paid by China after the war of 1895. And now the writer tells us that England is the Power that is secretly bringing about this world tragedy, because it is necessary to England that Russia and Japan should ruin themselves in order that England may be the leading Power in the Far East. The series of articles bear their own refutation of these absurd statements. If the crime of a "world tragedy" is to lie at the door of any one Power, that Power would most assuredly be none other than Russia, whose duplicity and utter disregard of her most solemn pledges our contributor has most clearly established. If Russia fulfils her repeated promises to evacuate Manchuria, it is patent to everybody that no excuse for a war would exist; but it is unfortunately equally patent that while the Russian Government has been holding this white flag of diplomacy before the eyes of rival Governments, her soldiers have been strengthening their position until now apparently she feels that she is able to "sit tight," tear up her promises, and challenge the world.

CANTON RIVER TRAFFIC.

(Daily Press, 29th July.)

In no branch of local shipping trade is more activity evinced at present than in the Canton river-steamship traffic. Last year the entries and clearances each reached the figure of over one and three-quarters million tons, representing more than seventeen per cent. of the entire shipping trade of the port of Hongkong, and still there are more steam-vessels being built for the Hongkong-Canton run. Within the last six months or so, the *Kwongchow* the *San Cheung* and the *Kinshan* have swelled the number of steamboats employed in the trade, and there are at present on the local stocks two more vessels designed to take part in this ever-growing traffic, while two new French steamers are also about to enter into the competition. Now we hear of still another bid that is likely to be made in the near future, and this a new departure, calculated to make the cutting of tariffs still more acute—namely, a scheme to put on the run a fast modern turbine steamer of the Parsons type and of a speed sufficient to enable her to perform the journey in only four hours. This would necessitate a speed exceeding twenty knots an hour, which of course is a velocity easy of accomplishment by such a type of steamer provided that the difficulties of river navigation permit it. But of this the promoters of the scheme entertain no doubt. The steamer would leave Hongkong every morning at eight o'clock, reaching Canton (according to estimate) at noon, and would start upon her return journey at two o'clock and reach here at six. Should such regularity of service become a *fait accompli*, the promoters' hopes of being able to capture a large proportion of the passenger traffic would doubtless be fulfilled; indeed the Kowloon Railway itself would find it difficult to offer better and more rapid facilities of transit than the turbine steamer would provide. Meantime, the mere fact that such a project is being floated shows that those who know the river and its trade are convinced of the existence of even greater and more lucrative potentialities than have already been exploited.

CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

(Daily Press, 30th July.)

The trial of Mr. R. G. McEwen, Inspector of Markets, on a charge of having on the 15th July, 1902, unlawfully accepted a bribe of \$10 from one Fung Yung with a view to influence his conduct in the performance of his duties, and having on other occasions accepted bribes of amounts varying from \$17 to \$120, which resulted in his acquittal on the 22nd inst., suggests some serious reflections. The jury were quite satisfied that the charges were not proved, and gave an unanimous verdict to that effect, but the Government apparently held a very different opinion. However that may be, Mr. McEwen has been triumphantly acquitted, and the verdict was obviously in accordance with outside opinion, as was evidenced by the unseemly outburst of applause which it evoked from the spectators, and which the Chief Justice in righteous indignation promptly suppressed. The question now before the public is not Mr. McEwen's case, or that of others who have recently been accused of the same offence, but the broader one of how to put a stop to the corruption which is admitted to be going on in several administrative departments of the Government.

In the first place, whatever can be done to lessen the temptations to which slenderly paid officials are exposed should most certainly be attempted. Human nature is frail, and money earned by merely not seeing or not knowing possesses a great fascination to men whose wages only supply them with a bare living. Every man also likes to supplement his ordinary income, if possible, either by extra work or by any legitimate labour. If it can be increased by much easier methods, it may seem no crime to do so to some persons whose moral perceptions are perhaps not too refined. Now, it is right and it is prudent to restrain such persons from stepping on to this fatally easy path, by a knowledge that pains and penalties beset it; but it is also right and reasonable that the path of virtue should be rendered as smooth as possible. Thus, the salaries paid to officials who are exposed to such temptations should at least be sufficient to place them above the pinch and pressure of want. They should be decently housed and surrounded by their own people as far as possible, be able to send their children to a good school among other British children, and be able to furnish the means for some innocent enjoyments or amusements to their families. In Colonies like Hongkong the means of recreation for Europeans of the poorer class are regrettably few, and if, in addition, they are compelled to live among the natives and participate in the dirt and squalor with which the latter surround themselves, the lot of such persons is hard indeed.

As a matter of fact the Government has always failed grievously in its duty to the lower ranks of officials, such as the minor clerks, police, sanitary and public works inspectors and overseers, a class who receive a rate of pay that will not permit of their occupying a respectable European dwelling-house and which necessitates their living in flats in Chinese tenements. Many years ago it was suggested in these columns that the Government should provide quarters for the married members of the Police Force and for those officials whose salaries were insufficient to allow of their renting decent houses in the European quarters of the Colony. It is eminently desirable that the lower ranks of the officials should not

be driven to live as and among natives, and more especially those whose duties place them in a position to oblige or thwart Chinese contractors or dealers. At the time the suggestion was made, it would have been comparatively easy to carry it into effect. The Government had plenty of sites at its command and could readily have built suitable quarters at a reasonable cost. Now it would be much more difficult and much more expensive to carry out such a scheme. At the same time it is not impracticable, and we hope it will yet be attempted. The pay of certain officials should also be considerably increased, in cases where great responsibilities are accepted or great temptations have to be encountered.

While on the one hand officials should be thus encouraged to go straight and resist temptation, however insidiously thrust upon them, efforts should likewise and simultaneously be made to punish all parties offering bribes to officials. It is an offence to attempt to seduce a public servant from the performance of his duties, and those guilty of it should be made liable to a severe punishment. A fine would not meet the case. The Chinese in many instances would care nothing for a fine, but if they were made to understand that a term of imprisonment with hard labour would confront those caught attempting the corruption of an officer either by bribery or by other means it would possibly have some deterrent effect. In the case heard on the 22nd inst. several witnesses calmly admitted having offered these bribes, and it should be an easy matter to procure a conviction. The Attorney-General has these men in his hand, and we trust he will not fail to institute a prosecution. They will be caught on the horns of a dilemma: either they were guilty of offering bribes, or they committed perjury for the purpose of ruining an official.

THE CUBICLE QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 30th July.)

When the new Buildings Ordinance was still before the Legislative Council there was no one of its provisions round which the battle of debate waxed stronger than round the section dealing with the abolition of windowless cubicles in existing domestic buildings. The wording of the Ordinance in reference to this matter may appear sufficiently succinct, but as already there have been obtained upon it legal opinions which differ materially, and as a test-case is under the process of preparation, it may be pardonable to again quote the words laid down in the Act. Section 154 (1) provides that "No cubicle or room which is not provided with a window or windows or a skylight opening directly into the external air and having a total glazed area of not less than one-tenth of the floor area of such cubicle or room, may be erected or if already erected be maintained in any storey of any domestic dwelling." When we turn to the definition of "external air" we find it stated to mean "a clear and unobstructed open space measured in a straight line from and at right angles to the plane of any window and of a width throughout of not less than thirteen feet." These provisions were ordered to be first enforced in No. 5 Health District, which for density of buildings and population in proportion to area is said to suffer the unpleasant distinction of being unrivalled in any city in the civilised world; and it is matter of common knowledge that the enforcement of the regulations of the new Ordinance in their

entirely will necessitate in that quarter of the Colony a demolition of cubicles that could only be described as wholesale with consequent serious derangement of the domestic lives of hundreds of families and the unhousing of many. It must be borne in mind also that if the Chinese are already finding the new laws so oppressive while yet these are only operative in one district, their hardships will be immeasurably intensified when the operation of the Ordinance becomes general. From No. 5 District the displaced population may remove at present to other districts of the city, but, so far as can be foreseen at the moment, the Ordinance will drive before it from one quarter of the Colony to another an ever-growing mass of unhoused families who will finally be compelled absolutely to quit the island unless dwellings are provided for them. It is equally true, of course, and the statement is borne out by most eminent experts, that so long as numberless windowless cubicles are permitted to remain, so long will the Colony be at the mercy of devastating epidemics. So the Government find themselves on the horns of a dilemma. We think that it is their bounden duty to provide houses for the accommodation of the displaced people. But in the meantime the needs of the Chinese are crying out to be supplied, and we are of opinion that in a well-considered compromise the Government will find a practicable middle path that can with safety be temporarily pursued. Under the Ordinance the Governor in Council has power in special cases to modify the requirements of the section referred to in respect to the external air, upon such conditions as he may deem expedient. Let His Excellency exercise that power and the Government hasten slowly. It should be the object of the authorities at the present stage rather to abolish what is glaringly bad than to improve what is passably good. In cases where the provisions regarding air-space are almost satisfied, temporary exemptions could hardly be too freely granted. As will be seen from another column the Chinese community of Hongkong through their Commercial Union and the ten Merchant Guilds are endeavouring to induce the Government to withdraw the new regulations affecting cubicles, and to-day a petition from the inhabitants of No. 5 Health District will be forwarded to the Governor, praying for permission to re-erect cubicles already demolished. It would surely be a backward step to agree to this latter proposal, but the Government in their future operations under the new Ordinance might well bear in mind the considerations which prompt the petitioners, and make the enforcement of its provisions press as lightly as possible upon the Chinese community at large.

FOREIGN TRADE IN COREA AND NORTH CHINA.

(Daily Press, 31st July.)

It is a fact worth noting that, notwithstanding all the rumours of the imminence of war between Russia and Japan which have been in circulation for the past two years, more or less, the course of foreign trade, even in the places directly affected by these rumours—we mean North China and Corea—has to all appearances been quite uninfluenced. The foreign trade of Corea for the year 1902 is described in a British Consular Report just received as being the highest on record since the opening of the country, with the one exception of the previous year. No doubt the decline of £117,914 in imports may justly be ascribed

to the "wretched harvest" of 1901 in Corea, for the returns show a falling off in the export of rice alone to the extent of £65,655 and this serious decline in one of the staple products of an agricultural country is bound to be reflected in the import returns. Yet the total exports show a decline of only £7,567, and the average of the country's trade for the last five years shows that 1902 had to its credit £378,271 more than the average. With regard to the trade of Newchwang, on which a good deal of public interest has naturally centred since Russia has tried to divert the trade of the port to Dalny, we find that the shipping figures were larger in 1902 than in the previous year, as also was the volume of trade, and the value when shown in taels; but when exchanged into sterling a drop of £700,000 is shown. This, however, cannot be ascribed to political disturbances nor to the attraction of trade to the Russian port, in spite of all the inducements offered, but is entirely due to the depreciation of silver.

It is of special interest at the present time to note in the Consular Report on the Trade of Corea the many evidences of the strides which the Japanese are making in their commercial relations with their near neighbour. Japanese, the Consul says, are flocking into Corea in ever-increasing numbers, and Japanese influence is extending in many parts of the country. The Chinese, he remarks, appear to be far behind their Japanese competitors in this field in initiative and enterprise. Russia has not been a serious commercial rival anywhere in the East up to the present, but the Consul shows that she is desirous of improving her position in this respect in Corea. "Russia, like Japan," he says, "though in a much less degree, is endeavouring to further her commercial intercourse with Corea," and he mentions the moving of the Russian Consulate from Seoul to Chemulpo owing "to the increase of shipping interests and other considerations." Particular mention is made of the fact that the Chinese Eastern Railway Company has built a large office at Chemulpo and that a steamer belonging to the Company is scheduled to make twenty-two voyages this year from Chemulpo to Dalny and Port Arthur. Elsewhere in the course of his report the Consul (Mr. LAY) says it is much to be regretted that there is no regular service of British steamers to Corea. There appears, he says, to be no reason why such a line should not in the end pay, if worked in co-operation with the Japanese steamship companies, which at present have a practical monopoly of the carrying trade. Mr. LAY looks forward to the country presenting more openings by degrees for British trade as time goes on but, except in respect of the carrying trade, "it cannot be stated that there are any special openings for British trade at the present time to which it is desirable to call attention." Still it is apparent that with the development of the mining resources of the country (gold-mining especially) and the construction of railways, both now in a fair way of progress, Corea may be confidently regarded as destined to become of increasing commercial importance.

On the 26th ult. three Chinamen entered the house of a native woman at Yaumati on the pretext that they were looking for lodgings. They seized her, rubbed pepper in her eyes, and tore the bangles she was wearing off her wrists. The articles were worth \$25. The woman's cries of "Save life" attracted the notice of neighbours, but they were unable to prevent the escape of the robbers. Their victim says she can identify them.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 3th ult. in the Board Room. Present:—Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President); Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works (Vice-President); Mr. C. McI. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Captain F. W. Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Mr. A. Rumjahn, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Dr. W. W. Pearce, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

ADDITIONAL STANDING ORDERS.

Additional standing orders empowering the Board to deal with certain applications under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance without passing a formal resolution were submitted.

The PRESIDENT said it was evidently the wish of the Government that applications regarding exemptions from the provision of open spaces should be dealt with by the full Board. A communication to that effect had been received from the Colonial Secretary, and therefore he did not propose to further deal with the first of the two standing orders. With reference to the second, it would expedite the business of the Board if it was agreed to by the members. The recommendation it embodied was that, with reference to applications for licences issued under Schedule B of the Public Health and Building Ordinance such applications might be issued without a resolution to that effect in each case after the circulation of the papers to members of the Board, provided that there were no adverse minutes. Continuing, the President said he thought the agenda of the present meeting would show that some such standing order was necessary, otherwise they would have a score of such applications to deal with practically at each meeting of the Board. He moved that the Board make this standing order.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded.

Mr. HEWETT opposed the motion. At the last meeting of the Board he had stated his objections to the insertion of these standing orders, and he was glad to see that, so far as concerned the first, the Government had fallen in with their views. It was most important that matters of this sort should be dealt with by the full Board, and in support of his contention he could only repeat what he had said at the last meeting. Speaking for himself, and he believed for all the unofficial members of the Board, they were very busy men, and it was impossible for them to give close attention to matters circulated on papers or to decide by such a means whether a licence should be granted or not. The other night, when leaving his office at 5 o'clock, he had two tin boxes chock full of papers from the Board put into his hands, and another was brought the following morning. These papers he had to rush through as quickly as possible, because the meeting was to be held that afternoon and the other members had to see them. He could not therefore take time to consider the matters dealt with, and he thought it very much better that they should be discussed by the full Board. If a man proposed to start in business as a baker or as a boiler of fat, he did not make up his mind all at once. He knew what he was going to do weeks or months before, whether he wanted a new licence granted or an old one renewed, and if it was necessary for him to give earlier notice to the Board he could do so. Without commenting on the way the work was done, or making any unfavourable criticism in the matter at all, it appeared to him that there must be some way of getting these applications through more quickly, and if a way could not be found the applicants should be made to understand that it took a certain amount of time to get their applications passed through, and that they must make any applications in good time any way. He was of opinion, concluded Mr. Hewett, that such matters should be dealt with by the full Board.

The PRESIDENT—Do you move an amendment?

Mr. HEWETT—Yes; my amendment is to negative the proposal.

Mr. POLLOCK supported the remarks of Mr. Hewett. There was no doubt, he thought, that in order to get matters thoroughly threshed out it was advisable that they should be discussed and deliberated by the whole Board.

On a vote being taken by a show of hands, the President, Vice-President, Captain Lyons, Colonel Webb and Mr. Rumjahn (5) voted for the motion and Mr. Messer, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Pollock, Mr. Hewett and Mr. Lau Chu Pak (5) voted against.

The PRESIDENT gave his casting vote in favour of the motion and it was accordingly carried.

SANITARY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The report of Mr. J. Bryan, Sanitary Surveyor, for the second quarter of 1903, was laid on the table. The report was as follows:—

1. Plans have been deposited and passed by me during the quarter for the drainage of 90 houses, plans for 713 houses were carried forward from 1902, and 54 from last quarter—making a total of 877 in hand during the quarter.

2. The drainage of 148 houses has been completed, leaving 709 to carry forward.

3. Notices for repairs or alterations to the drains of 84 houses have been received, 94 were carried forward from 1902, and 60 from last quarter, making a total of 238 in hand during the quarter. Of these 127 have been completed and 4 cancelled, leaving 107 to carry forward.

4. Certificates have been granted under section 84 of Ordinance 13 of 1901 to 105 houses, that they have been built in accordance with the provisions of that Ordinance.

5. The drains of 10 houses have been opened and reported on. Of these 8 required amending, and 2 were found to be in good order. Notices were served on the owners of the above 8 houses calling on them to execute the necessary work.

6. In addition to the above 7,653 houses have been inspected with the result that 43 drainage nuisances have been discovered. Notices have been served in each case on the owner or occupier to abate the nuisance. 44 nuisances have been reported to the M. O. H. and 35 to the Hon. D. P. W. to be dealt with by them. 66 choked drain-traps on private property have been cleared by the Drainage Inspectors.

7. The records have been maintained and are complete.

Mr. Pollock minuted the query why it was that the drainage plans of so many houses were carried forward; was it due to insufficiency of the staff?

The PRESIDENT said this was not due to insufficiency of staff, but frequently plans were sent in some years even before the work was completed, and a certificate could not be given until the house was properly finished. The Surveyor had told him that he had just inspected some houses in Seymour Road for which the plans were sent in in August, 1901, and which were not yet completed.

The report was adopted.

THE NEW PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDING ORDINANCE.

The following motion stood on the agenda-paper against Mr. Pollock's name:—"That a Sub-committee of the Board be appointed to consider what amendments appear to be desirable in the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, and to report thereon to the Board."

Mr. A. Rumjahn minuted:—"Many sections of the Ordinance require amending. The total abolition of cubicles, including those provided with windows opening into the open air, is not the object aimed at by the framers of the Bill, but has the effect of inflicting unnecessary hardships on the population, and of endangering the prosperity of the Colony. Unless a comprehensive scheme of reconstructing our insanitary dwellings is adopted plague and kindred diseases will be always with us, and all monies expended to combat these diseases will be only thrown away."

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted:—"I have great pleasure in supporting the motion. As the Ordinance stands at present it is impossible and unreasonable to expect the inhabitants to conform themselves to its requirements. No provision has been made to house

the poor who will be displaced and to compensate owners for structural alterations of their houses, without which in the sense of the definition of external air no rooms or cubicles can be maintained or erected in about 90 per cent. of the existing houses both European and Chinese alike. At the confidential meeting held by the Board to discuss the advisability of enforcing the Ordinance it was then speculated that the property-owners might arrive at some scheme or would, as the Government had been led to believe, pull down every third house so as to facilitate the carrying out of the law. But it has since been proved that the property-owners had not the least inclination to follow that idea and I do not blame them for repudiating it without compensation. Every law inflicts a certain amount of hardship, but no hardship would be anything like what is likely to be inflicted by the present Ordinance. The majority of the population is Chinese, and their tenement houses are so peculiarly constructed that every storey is simply one long room, commonly called a floor or flat. The rent of each of such floors ranges from 88 per month in the poorest districts to 875 per month in the busiest part of the city. Very few can afford to take a whole floor. Generally three or four families share it together. Under the present Ordinance they cannot do so and very likely two families will have to pay the same rent as four have been paying. This may be a secondary consideration as compared with the depriving them of the little decency they have hitherto enjoyed. It is a well-known fact that none of the existing Chinese tenement houses, with the exception of the corner ones, opens directly into the external air, and consequently no floor can be partitioned off to secure the necessary privacy to the men and women of the different families living together. Even members of the same family must have a certain amount of privacy. It would not be in accordance with propriety for parents and grown-up children or masters and servants to herd together in full view of each other. The object of the Ordinance is to relieve overcrowding, which can be attained by increasing the habitable area for each adult, as it has already been done, and not to deprive people of their domestic privacy. There are other circumstances calling for prompt investigation. It is no use making a law which is beyond the ability of the people to obey, even if they wish to."

Mr. POLLOCK in moving his resolution said it must be apparent to every member of the Board, he thought, that the legislation which was passed with reference to cubicles and was maintained in Ordinance 1 of 1903 was unworkable in practice. No doubt the Government when it passed Section 154 of that Ordinance must have been under the impression that every third house was likely shortly to be pulled down and that lateral windows were going to be made in the side-walls of the houses and that in that way the cubicles in the houses would receive light and air. That was no doubt the impression in the minds of the Government when that section was passed, but he thought it was quite obvious now that every third house was not likely to be pulled down under existing arrangements, and, furthermore, he believed it was extremely doubtful whether it would be safe in the case of old houses in the Colony to pull down every third house. This Colony was subject to typhoons and heavy rains and he imagined that in the case of old houses the taking down of every third house would be a very dangerous operation unless some very expensive methods were employed to prevent the houses on each side from collapsing into the middle and thereby creating a worse state of affairs than existed at present. In view of the fact that it was not likely that every third house would be taken down; the effect of Section 154 of this Ordinance, assuming that the Magistrate held partitions to be legal at all, would be that cubicles could be crowded round the windows, and all the rest of the floor which was not taken up by the cubicles would be very dark, very badly ventilated, and, one might say, practically useless for any purpose whatsoever. Now, this was as different as almost anything could be from the scheme which was passed by the Legislature as late as 1901. In Ordinance 13 of 1901, Sub-section G of Section 70, it was expressly provided that no partition should

be erected or, if already existing, allowed to remain nearer than four feet to any window area which was included in the cubicated area specified in Sub-section E; therefore the Legislature in 1901 expressly laid it down as a principle that it was not advisable to have cubicles built round windows and no partition should be erected or if already existing should be allowed to remain nearer than four feet to any window. Therefore the practical effect obviously of Section 154 of Ordinance 1 of 1903 would be that if it was desired to maintain cubicles on the floors at all—and no doubt that was very necessary in the case of family houses—every single cubicle which was either originally in conformity with Ordinance 13 of 1901 or which afterwards was altered and made to conform with that law would, as it seemed to him, be illegal under the provisions of Section 154 of Ordinance 1 of 1903. That meant that alterations which had been made very little more than two years ago were now declared to be wrong, to be illegal, and something further had to be done. That was a very unsatisfactory state of affairs into which they had got, and he thought it was very necessary that a sub-committee of the Board should be appointed to look into the question of amending this Ordinance with special reference to this question of cubicles. There were no doubt other points which also would require to be looked into, but it was this question of cubicles that was the burning question of the day, because he understood that quite recently notices had been served with reference to certain houses and that there were proceedings, some concluded, some still pending, before the Police Magistrate with reference to cubicles. He did not know whether the other members of the Board were of the same opinion, but he thought that in view of the fact that it was obvious that Section 154 of the Ordinance would require some amendment, it was extremely desirable that after a sufficient number of cases had been taken in the Police Court, constituting a test-case, the Board should stay its hand and not take any further proceedings with reference to cubicles. There was no doubt it would be a very great hardship if persons now had to remove cubicles which in consequence of amendments recommended by the Board and adopted by the Government were afterwards found not to be illegal. That, he thought, would be a very lamentable state of affairs and therefore it was desirable that the Board at the present time should not take action in regard to cubicles but only take such action as was necessary to bring certain points before the Magistrate for his decision. Otherwise there was no doubt the people would feel very much aggrieved if they had to remove cubicles which were sanctioned by amendments that might be made on the Ordinance and which they would not have been compelled to remove if the amendments had been passed into law. He felt bound to make this criticism upon the provisions of this Ordinance, but he was perfectly well aware, and he was sure they were all aware, that it was easy enough to criticise and a good deal more difficult sometimes to remedy the thing criticised; but he thought that, without being too sanguine, he might express his confidence that the sub-committee of the Board would hit upon a better scheme with reference to cubicles and would be able to suggest to the Government some amendment of Section 154 which would press less hardly upon the poor people in this Colony who were married and had families and wanted a certain amount of separation and privacy in their dwellings. He would rather not move the names of any members of the sub-committee as he proposed that he himself should serve on the committee, but he ventured to suggest as suitable members the President, Dr. Pears, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. Rumjahn and himself. He thought they would be able to discuss this matter thoroughly and he hoped they would be able to advise the Government to make such amendments in Section 154 as would preserve what was very necessary—the privacy of Chinese family life—while at the same time securing as far as possible such distribution of cubicles on the floors of the houses as would meet to the greatest possible extent those sanitary requirements which they were all agreed were very necessary.

Mr. HEWETT seconded the motion. Whilst it was unwise to rush into criticism of

an Act newly brought into force, an Act which they all knew perfectly well had been carefully considered by the Government and by many people in the Colony, including the leading property-owners, and whilst it was admitted also that the Act would go a long way towards improving the sanitary condition of Hongkong, it was unfortunately evident that the particular section dealing with cubicles was quite impossible. Therefore he thought Mr. Pollock's proposal an eminently reasonable one, and trusted the Board would agree to accept it and to appoint the members named as a sub-committee to consider this extremely complicated question.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN also spoke in favour of the motion. It was necessary to have a sub-committee to recommend amendments that were urgently needed. The wholesale abolition of cubicles would have a severe effect on their welfare, for it would simply tend to drive all the respectable families from their midst.

The VICE-PRESIDENT suggested that the scope of the resolution might be somewhat limited. Mr. Pollock's remarks had had especial reference to cubicles, and it appeared desirable to insert something to that effect.

Mr. POLLOCK did not think it desirable to limit the resolution, because they might possibly have to consider other matters more or less connected with cubicles.

The VICE-PRESIDENT thought that the words "more especially with reference to the question of the provision of cubicles in dwelling-houses," or something to that effect, should be inserted.

Mr. POLLOCK did not see that there was any object in limiting the resolution. The sub-committee might be trusted to keep to certain points.

The PRESIDENT said the resolution did seem wide in its scope, but he gathered from Mr. Pollock's remarks that it was intended to apply to the cubicle question.

Mr. POLLOCK—Yes.

Mr. HEWETT—I think the sub-committee appointed will not go out of their way to enlarge their labours unduly.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried.

The PRESIDENT nominated the following as members of the sub-committee:—Mr. Pollock, Mr. Bumjahn, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Dr. Pearce, and the President.

Mr. HEWETT seconded.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK suggested the inclusion of Mr. Fung Wa Chun's name.

The PRESIDENT—I think five are quite sufficient.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—Yes, I think so; five are quite enough. (Laughter.)

The constitution of the sub-committee as suggested by the President was approved of.

THE CUBICLE QUESTION AGAIN.

The PRESIDENT read a petition from Messrs. Ewins & Harston, solicitors, as representing certain landlords, merchants, tradesmen, shopkeepers, etc., in the Colony, with reference to the cubicle question.

It was in the following terms:

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

The Humble Petition of the undersigned landowners, merchants, tradesmen, shopkeepers and residents of the Colony of Hongkong,

Sheweth:—

1. That your petitioners are the landowners, merchants, tradesmen, shopkeepers and residents of Hongkong and their interests are identical with the prosperity of Hongkong.

2. That since the 1st May, 1903, Sections 46 and 154 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance No. 1 of 1903 have been put into force in No. 5 Health District with the result that no cubicle is allowed to remain in any house within the said District not already provided with a window opening directly on the external air.

3. That your petitioners understand that all the houses in the Colony whether European or Chinese with very few exceptions are not in accordance with the requirements of the Ordinance in question in respect of the above indicated matters.

4. That great hardship has already been inflicted upon your petitioners in general and the inhabitants of No. 5 District in particular by reason of the cubicles wherein such inhabitants

formerly enjoyed privacy having been removed and such privacy thereby put an end to.

5. That in view of the fact that the cost of making the alterations necessary to comply with the requirements of the said sections of the Ordinance will necessitate the payment by the tenants of an increased rental and that practically all the latter are of the poorer classes who will receive no compensation either directly or indirectly for the increased expenditure thus cast upon them, but will be under the distinct disadvantage of having suffered a loss of the privacy they previously enjoyed the case of your petitioners is eminently one deserving of careful consideration by the members of your Board with a view to your petitioners obtaining through your good offices the consent of His Excellency the Governor, in exercise of the power vested in him by section 154 of the Ordinance, to a modification of the requirements of such section, especially having regard to the circumstances in connection with the long-continued occupation by such of your petitioners as are tenants of the buildings now being dealt with under the said sections, such occupation having been hitherto suffered for a large number of years.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully ask that the members of your Board will be good enough to assist them in the direction above mentioned so that your petitioners thereby obtain some modification in or exemption from the requirements of the said sections in order that they may not be disturbed in their enjoyment and occupation of the said buildings.

And your petitioners will ever pray, etc.
Dated the 29th July, 1903.

The PRESIDENT—I move that this petition be forwarded by the Board to Government for their consideration.

Mr. POLLOCK—I think it would be as well to let it be considered by the sub-committee of the Board.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN also favoured this course, which it was decided to adopt.

DISINFECTING STATION.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the erection of the disinfecting station at Kowloon the plans of which were approved.

LATRINE.

Correspondence was also submitted relative to the proposed erection of a public latrine on a triangular space behind the Harbour Office.

The applicants in the matter were notified to address the Colonial Secretary.

PLAGUE RETURNS—A LETTER.

A letter was received from Sir Robert Hart regarding the supply of plague returns by Commissioners of Customs at Swatow, Canton, &c. The letter stated that it was uncertain whether the desire for a weekly plague bulletin could be given effect to, but that instructions would be issued to the various Commissioners to supply the Hongkong Government from time to time with any reliable news they may obtain through medical or other channels respecting bubonic plague in their districts.

The PRESIDENT said this was one of the recommendations made by Professor Simpson last year, but it appeared that there was some difficulty in obtaining the information. Several doctors had requested that they should be paid a fee for supplying it, and the request was not an unreasonable one.

It was decided to let the subject stand over for a time.

LATRINE IN KOWLOON CITY.

A petition from Kau Chun, scavenging contractor in Kowloon City, &c., relative to the erection of a privately-owned public latrine on a certain site in Kowloon City, was tendered.

Consideration of the matter was postponed.

REPORT.

A report by Mr. A. Gibson, Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, on a sample of pork sent by Mr. O. F. Ribeiro for examination, was tabled. It showed that the pork was diseased.

The PRESIDENT said this was the first case of the kind that had occurred within his recollection, and that went back fifteen years. The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon was on the watch to see if any more pork was in the same condition.

PLANS.

Further correspondence was received relative to the plan of 15 houses proposed to be erected on Aberdeen Inland Lot No. 76.

Plans were inspected of houses to be erected on Kowloon Inland Lots 1,504 and 1,105, and showing yard spaces of houses on Reclamation Marine Lots 63A and 63A station 2.

The plans in each instance were approved.

INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the appointment of all existing sanitary inspectors to be inspectors of nuisances under the Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance, 1896.

It was decided to forward the papers to Government for the opinion of the Attorney-General.

IMPORTATION OF DOGS.

Correspondence was received relative to the prohibition against the importation of dogs from Shanghai.

The reasons for its enforcement having ceased to exist, the PRESIDENT moved the withdrawal of the prohibition order, and was supported by Mr. HEWETT, who hoped that such prohibition would never be enforced unless it was absolutely necessary.

It was agreed to forward the recommendation to the Government.

LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The limewashing return for the fortnight ended the 21st inst. showed that out of 4,766 houses in the Eastern district and 5,935 in the Western, 87 and 2,512 respectively were limewashed. A sum of \$691 in fines resulted from 120 prosecutions in the latter district.

APPLICATIONS.

A large number of applications for licences of various kinds were dealt with.

This was all the public business.

HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

Only one case of plague (Chinese, dead) was notified during the two days ended at noon on the 27th ult.; the body was brought to the door of 28, Caine Road.

During the week ended Saturday, 25th ult., 13 cases of plague and 11 deaths occurred; all the victims except one, a Japanese who died, were Chinese. The total cases for the year number 1361, distributed as follows:—35 European, 1,248 Chinese, 81 other Asiatics; the deaths aggregate 1,198, namely—4 Europeans, 1,155 Chinese, 39 other Asiatics.

The only other cases of communicable disease occurring during the week ended the 25th ult. were one of enteric fever (Indian) and one of purpural fever (Chinese, fatal).

SIR E. SATOW IN INDIA.

Sir Ernest Satow, the British Minister to China, on his arrival in Bombay made (says the Allahabad paper) an extremely diplomatic speech to the Bombay Millowners' Association, in reply to an address on the subject of Indian trade with China. The chief matter of discussion was the abolition of *likin*, and the millowners were concerned lest the abolition should be merely nominal, and under the new Treaty they should be mulcted in heavier import duties and have to pay the exactions of the mandarins in addition. Sir Ernest Satow, however, was able to reassure them: there is no immediate prospect of the new Treaty coming into force at all; years will probably elapse before all the Powers interested have come to an arrangement with China. But when the Treaty does come into force, it does not follow that it will be properly carried out. Quite a number of stipulations under the Treaty of 1858 have remained a dead letter until the present day, and Chinese ingenuity in avoiding awkward provisions in Treaties is probably quite as great to-day as it was half a century ago. As the Bombay millowners pointed out, foreign control of the Inland as well as the Maritime Customs of China would be the only possible method of outwitting the mandarins. "The fact of goods being of foreign origin shall of itself free them from all taxation, delay, or stoppage, after having passing the Customs House," says the Treaty. But to ensure the carrying out of that provision foreign control of the internal administration would be necessary, and Englishmen, at any rate, are convinced that such control would involve evils at least as great as the abuses it would correct.

PUBLIC WORKS IN 1902.

The report of Mr. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works, for 1902 is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following extracts:—

WORK UNDER THE BUILDING ORDINANCE.

Plans.—Plans were deposited during the year for the following:—European houses, 33, Chinese houses, 467, buildings and structures other than the above, 370; alterations and additions to existing buildings, 809. Total, 1,679. There was a marked decrease, as compared with 1901, in the two first items, the new houses for which plans were submitted numbering only 500 as against 952. In the fourth item there was an increase of 237.

Certificates.—Certificates for 937 new buildings were issued under section 53 of Ordinance 15 of 1889, an increase of 244 as compared with 1901.

Notices and Permits. Notices relating to structures in a dangerous condition were served in 144 cases, whilst 1,583 permits and 74 notices of a miscellaneous nature were issued.

Ordinances.—A Bill consolidating the laws in force relative to buildings and containing numerous amendments was read a first time on the 11th March, but was subsequently withdrawn in consequence of its being ascertained that it did not embody all the suggestions which the sanitary experts (Mr. O. Chadwick and Professor Simpson) proposed to make with a view to improving the sanitary condition of the City. Another Bill, entitled the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, in which all the laws in force relating to these matters were consolidated and amended, was read a first time on the 7th July, 1902. It had not, however, been passed by the close of the year. Its principal features were the abolition of cubicles not directly lighted by windows, the requirement of lanes and larger yard-spaces, and the abatement of overcrowding by requiring a greater floor-area and cubic space per head in the case of most of the existing houses.

General Remarks.—An unsatisfactory feature of the year was the large number of collapses of buildings which occurred, many of the buildings involved being new or nearly so. In several cases the collapses were attended with considerable loss of life. With a view to preventing such occurrences in future, numerous provisions have been inserted in the new Ordinance referred to above. They included a substantial increase in the thickness of walls and the buildings of certain portions in cement mortar, the insertion of iron tie-roads in unsupported external walls of considerable length, the prohibition of persons practising as architects unless authorised by the Governor in Council, and the imposition of increased responsibilities upon architects.

PUBLIC WORKS RECURRENT.

Maintenance of Waterworks, City and Hill District.—The year 1902 will be a memorable one on account of the severe drought experienced during the early part of it; the subsequent heavy rainfall condensed into a period of about three months; and the necessity of again resorting to intermittent supply in consequence of the early cessation of the rains, the rainfall of September being the lowest on record. During the entire year a constant supply of water was maintained for 160 days only, the supply being intermittent for the remaining 205 days. The following were the periods of intermittent supply:—1st January to 24th May and 1st November to 31st December. An account of the earlier stages of the drought, having been given in last year's report, it is only necessary to repeat here that the contents of the reservoirs had been reduced to 146 million gallons on the 1st January. In view of the fact that the shrinkage in the reservoirs from 11th November, 1901, when the intermittent system was introduced, to the 1st January, 1902, was 95 million gallons, or at the rate of 13 million gallons per week, it became necessary to consider what further measures could be adopted besides those already in force, in order to maintain a supply of water until the commencement of the rainy season. In order to economise the supply remaining, the following steps were taken:—(a.) On the 13th January, the hours of supply to the City were reduced from 4 to 3 daily. (b.) On the 22nd January, the practice of turn-

ing on water for cleansing and disinfecting purposes was discontinued, the Sanitary Board having been previously instructed to make other arrangements for obtaining a supply. (c.) A few days later, all supplies to shipping and for building purposes were disconnected. Attention was next turned to the adoption of measures to supplement the supply from other sources, and on the 12th February a committee, consisting of the Harbour Master, the Registrar General, and the Director of Public Works, was appointed by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government with full powers to take whatever steps they thought necessary for the purpose. Prior to this, an inspection had been made of several of the principal streams on the mainland within reasonable distance of the City, resulting in the selection of one near Tsunwan. The question of resuming possession of the Laichikok stream, which had been leased to the Steam Water-boat Co., was considered, but was abandoned on account of the daily yield being somewhat inadequate, besides which its resumption would have caused serious interference with the supply to the shipping. The settlement of the Company's claim for damages would also have been a troublesome matter. Though considerably further afield, being six miles distant from the City, the stream near Tsunwan was free from these objections. It had a yield of about half a million gallons per day and was used only for driving a sandalwood-grinding mill, and, as samples tested by the Government Analyst showed the water to be suitable for potable purposes, arrangements were at once made to render it available for transport to the Praya, where it could be distributed for the supply of the population of the low-level district. By negotiation with the owner of the sandalwood mill, the use of his dam and channel was obtained, the latter being extended for a distance of over 300 yards to a point near the shore whence a bamboo pier, 400 feet long, was constructed to carry a large wooden shoot for discharging the water into lighters. It was found necessary to line the new channel, as the water flowing along it became very muddy on account of the washing away of the softer portions of ground through which it was cut, and this was done with 9-inch stoneware pipes. Three large lighters, each capable of containing over 90,000 gallons, were hired, and, after being thoroughly cleansed, were fitted up with timber bulkheads in order to adapt them for conveying water. Before the end of the drought, the number of lighters was increased to five. These were filled from the shoot already referred to and towed to the Praya. On the Praya, three tanks having a combined capacity of 100,000 gallons were constructed of brick and concrete. One was situated near Wing Wo Street, another at the west end of Wing Lok Street, and the third at Eastern Street, all three being connected by a line of wrought- or cast-iron pipe, 6 and 7 inches in diameter, laid along the Praya wall. Barricades were erected at the tanks, with entrances and exits, to enable the stream of people to be regulated and thus avoid loss of time through the confusion which might otherwise have arisen. At the central tank, a 6-inch centrifugal pump, mounted on a barge, and provided with the necessary boiler and connections to the lighters and tank, was stationed for pumping the water, all the tanks being supplied simultaneously through the pipe-line already mentioned. About 20 large taps, each of which was capable of filling a 5-gallon bucket in a minute, were provided at each tank in the first instance, 5 more taps being added subsequently. A duplicate set of pumping machinery was fitted up and held in readiness in case of a break down occurring to the one in use. Military guards were stationed at the tanks to maintain order and ensure that all who came to obtain water should take their turn in their order of coming. The arrangements were got into working order on the 10th March, and from that date onwards till the 17th May, a regular, daily supply was maintained from the tanks, varying from 47,000 gallons at the beginning to 432,000 gallons at the end of the period mentioned.

Simultaneously with the inauguration of this supply, the water in the mains was shut off from a portion of the City extending along the Harbour front and back to Queen's Road

bounded by the Central Market on the East and the Soldiers' Home on the West and containing a population of about 47,000. As the daily supply from the tanks was increased, the cut-off area was extended back to Hollywood Road and High Street, until it ultimately included a population of about 63,000. Practically the whole of the water obtainable from the stream near Tsun Wan was being imported towards the termination of the drought, the total quantity derived from this source being over 23 million gallons, or about one-third of the Fokfulam Reservoir. Taking it over the whole period, the average daily supply delivered per head of the population of the cut-off area was 5.8 gallons.

In addition to the above, arrangements were made with Messrs. Butterfield & Swire for obtaining a supply from their principal reservoir for the Eastern district of the City. A line of pipes connecting with the reservoir referred to was placed at the service of the Government by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. for eight hours daily, and a supplementary main, over a mile in length, was laid. The quantity that could be obtained from this source was originally stated to be 15 million gallons, but, in consequence of an error which had been made in calculating the contents of their reservoirs, Messrs. Butterfield & Swire subsequently discovered that they were not in a position to supply so much. The actual quantity obtained was a little over 14 million gallons. With the curtailment of the area served from the City Waterworks, it became possible to reduce the hours of supply and these were limited to two hours daily on the 31st March and to one hour on the 28th April. In consequence of the steady continuance of the drought up to the end of April, instructions were given by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to make arrangements for importing more water to the City at any cost. Numerous schemes for so doing were considered and several were initiated.

For the supply of the Eastern district, it was decided to convey water from a small stream at Tai Wan in Kowloon Bay, distant five miles from Blake Pier, in a similar manner to that adopted in the case of the Tsunwan stream. A dam was built across the stream, whence the water was conducted in an open channel, 700 yards long, to a tank near the sea-shore. From this point, three lines of canvas hose, supported on trestles, were laid for a distance of 567 yards across the foreshore to where lighters could be filled at all states of the tide. A large tank, into which the water was to be pumped was fitted up at Ship Street, numerous taps being provided for drawing it off into buckets. These works were completed, but were not brought into service on account of the rainy season setting in before they could be availed of. In order to supply additional areas in the central and western low-level districts, beyond those already supplied from Tsunwan, works were undertaken for bringing water from a stream at Tai Lam Chung, near Castle Peak Bay and distant 13 miles from Blake Pier. These works comprised the construction of a dam, 1,206 lined feet of open channel; 2 miles of cast-iron pipes, 12 inches in diameter; trestle bridges over ravines and a trestle pier at the sea-shore. Brick tanks, each having a capacity of 34,000 gallons, to receive the water from this source, were constructed on the Praya, one opposite Pottinger Street and the other opposite French Street. All these works were about half finished when the rains set in.

For transporting the water, two lighters were lent by the Superintendent of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, and five others were hired from the Godown Company and Naval Authorities, all of them being fitted with bulkheads and otherwise adapted for the purpose. Some other works of a similar nature to those already described, but of less magnitude, were also undertaken and a scheme was considered for obtaining a supply of river water from Molo Mun, distant about 60 miles from the Colony. It was proposed to transport the water in tank steamers to be chartered for the purpose, but apart from objections on the score of expense, which would have been very great, it was found that it would be impracticable to maintain a regular daily supply by its adoption, and the scheme was therefore abandoned.

Towards the end of the drought, the streams rendered available by the City Waterworks continued to yield about 300,000 gallons per day.

The water in Tylam reservoir—Fokfulam and Wongneichong being empty—reached its lowest level on the 10th May, when there remained in it 6,000,000 gallons. At the same rate of draw-off as prevailed during the preceding 10 days, sufficient to last for other 18 days, or practically until the end of May. Rain began to fall in appreciable quantity on the 8th May and, on the 13th, a fall of nearly 7 inches occurred, effectually terminating the severe drought which had extended over a period of practically nine months. By the 25th May, the condition of the reservoirs justified a return to the system of constant supply, and this was accordingly put in force after a period of intermittent supply extending over 195 days, or 6½ months.

The total expenditure on the works undertaken to supplement the supply was \$66,900.

As already mentioned, in consequence of the early cessation of the rains and the exceptionally dry weather during September, recourse was again had to intermittent supply on the 1st November. Tylam and Pokfulam reservoirs had ceased to overflow on the 1st September and Wongneichong at an earlier date, the combined contents of all three reservoirs on the 1st November amounting to 354 million gallons. This had been reduced to 293½ million gallons at the close of the year.

The total quantity of water supplied during the year, exclusive of what was imported or obtained from Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's reservoir, was 947,517,000 gallons filtered and 24,753,000 gallons unfiltered, making a grand total of 972,270,000 or 32½ millions less than during 1901. The average consumption of filtered water per day was 2,95,000 gallons, which, with an estimated population of 214,300, gives an average daily consumption of 12.11 gallons per head for all purposes. The daily consumption per head, during the period of constant supply, amounted to 17.6 gallons and during the latter period of intermittent supply to 10.5 gallons. In consequence of the exceptional conditions prevailing during the earlier period of intermittent supply, no accurate figures for it can be given, but, taking the entire population, the quantity supplied averaged 6.5 gallons, exclusive of unfiltered and imported supplies.

The water pumped to the High Level District of the City amounted to 30,45,000 gallons over the whole year, equal to an average daily consumption of 83,420 gallons, whilst 17,443,000 gallons were pumped to the Hill District, giving an average daily consumption of 47,788 gallons. The grand total pumped during the whole year amounted to 47,893,000 gallons.

Maintenance of Waterworks, Kowloon.—Kowloon, in common with the City, suffered from the severe drought. Fortunately, the wells, which form the source of supply in connection with the old water works, continued to yield water throughout the dry season. The Cheung Sha Wan Intakes, at which improvements had been made, were utilised to the fullest extent possible and assisted greatly in enabling a supply to be maintained. The total consumption for the year amounted to 164,922,000 gallons or an average consumption of 452,000 gallons per day, which, with an estimated population of 56,500, gives 8 gallons per head per day for all purposes.

Waterworks Ordinance.—A new Ordinance prepared principally with the object of causing economy in the use of water by penalising the waste or extravagant use of it, was read a first time on the 4th June and, after undergoing extensive amendments, passed on the 13th August. The principal provisions of the Ordinance as passed were the disconnection of all services to tenement houses whenever a supply of water was rendered available from public fountains in their vicinity and the metering of all services to premises other than tenement houses. Steps were taken to carry these provisions into effect and, as mentioned elsewhere, public fountains were extensively fitted up in certain districts of the City. In consequence of instructions received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, however, the disconnection of the services to tenement

houses was not proceeded with and the fixing of fountains was discontinued.

PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY.

New Law Courts.—The foundations, including the basement for the heating chamber, were in progress during the year and were nearly completed at its close. The total number of piles driven was 1,447. It was found necessary to make some alterations in the basement in order to accommodate the heating apparatus properly, and these involved some delay in the work. Considerable delay was also caused by the discovery of unsatisfactory material in a portion of the foundations, necessitating its being taken up and replaced with good material. The work was proceeded with in a very dilatory manner during the latter part of the year. Tenders for the superstructure were received in December.

Taiipo Road.—The whole of the work has been completed, with the exception of the surfacing of the road and the trimming of some banks in the last five miles and fixing railings to bridges, and executing some cutting in the last mile. The road is open to ricksha traffic throughout its entire length of 18 miles from Tsimshatsui Point to Taiipo. Two miles of it consist of roads in the Old Territory, which were made before the New Territory was taken over, thus making the length of roadway constructed under the vote "Taiipo Road" 16 miles. Commencing from Tsimshatsui Point, in order to avoid confusion in referring to the mileage of the road, the first 3 miles are practically level. After this, the road begins to ascend the Kowloon Range of hills running along the Southern slopes at a gradient generally of 1 in 20 up to a gap at a height of 441 feet, which is reached at about 4½ miles. It then traverses the Northern slopes of the range at comparatively easy gradients until it reaches the gap overlooking the Shatin Valley. The highest point of the road is 517 feet above Ordnance Datum, the level of the gap last mentioned being 412 feet, and its distance 6½ miles from the starting-point. Following a downward gradient of 1 in 40, the flat land of the Shatin Valley is reached at 8½ miles and the road then runs level along the North side of Tide Cove or Shatin Inlet to about 11½ miles. Leaving Tide Cove, another ascent commences over a gap 370 feet high, which is passed at 13½ miles, and the road then falls by easy gradients to the shore of Tolo Harbour which is reached opposite the village of Wongwai, at 17½ miles. Crossing a large stream by a bridge of 120 feet in length it touches a small island, where the landing pier for Taiipo is situated and, after traversing an embankment 2,000 feet in length, passes through a cutting and terminates near Taiipo village, where it joins an old pathway. The width of the road is 14 feet. There are in all 17 bridges, 13 of one span, 2 of two spans, 1 of three spans and 1 of 4 spans. The spans vary from 10 to 30 feet in length. All the bridges have masonry abutments and piers and are constructed of cement supported on steel joists. Iron railings are provided.

City Waterworks Extension—Tylamuk Scheme.—In accordance with the advice of Mr O. Chadwick, C.M.G., surveys and preliminary works were undertaken with a view to constructing a storage reservoir at Tylamuk, from which the water could be pumped up to the Tylam Tunnel. A site in the upper part of the estuary was selected, where it appeared possible that a dam with a large impounding capacity could be constructed. A number of borings were made and three trial-pits were undertaken in order to obtain reliable information regarding the nature of the foundation to be met with. The trial pits or wells are constructed of brick in cement built on top of a cast-iron curb ring and are of a diameter of 5 ft. 8 in. internally. The depths to which they had been sunk at the close of the year were 32 ft. in., 3½ ft. and 8 ft. respectively, below Ordnance Datum; no rock had, however, been met with at these depths. Two barges, equipped with boilers, steam winches, derricks, &c., were in use, the wells being kept dry by means of a pulsometer pump or by baling, according to circumstances. Digging was carried on by hand or by a grab bucket operated by the steam winches, as found most suitable. The men employed on the work suffered a good deal from malarial fever of a severe type.

Site for New Post Office, Treasury, &c.—The area of Reclamation pertaining to Marine Lots Nos. 99 and 101 bounded by Connaught Road, Pedder Street, and Des Voeux Road on the North, East and South sides, respectively, was acquired by Government for the site of the New Post Office. It is also intended to provide accommodation on the site, by erecting a three-storied building, for the Treasury and other departments. Competitive designs for the building were called for from architects in the Colony and in Shanghai and Singapore. The area of the site is 25,414 square feet; the amount paid for it being \$508,280, or at the rate of \$20 per square foot.

Plague Account.—A sum of \$16,231 was expended under this heading, principally for the erection of various matsheds for housing the Sanitary Staff, &c. (\$4,650); the construction of a pier and pathway to the Plague Cemetery at Cheung Sha Wan (\$2,944); and fixing wire rat-proof nettings over the gully gratings (\$1,932).

PRAYA RECLAMATION WORKS.

The expenditure for the year was \$110,708, as compared with \$91,772 in 1901 and \$150,650 in 1902. The total building area to be provided by the Reclamation is 33 acres. An area of 27 acres has been made available, and the whole of it, except about one acre, has been taken over by the several parties entitled to it.

THE 1ST BATT. SHERWOOD FORESTERS.

PRESENTATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN MEDALS.

On the 25th ult. on the New Parade Ground, H. E. Major-General Sir William J. Gascoigne, K.C.M.G., Commanding the Forces in Hongkong and China, presented the South African War medals to the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derbyshire Regiment). The Foresters, it may be recalled, arrived in Hongkong from South Africa on the 8th October last and relieved the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. When they came home the regiment was at low strength as a result of its operations in the late war, but drafts from home have brought up the number of effectives to 774 officers and men, or a little over 200 short of its establishment. Of the present force, however, only about one-half is stationed in Hongkong, the remainder having been despatched to North China soon after the arrival of the regiment. The Sherwood Foresters are an historic old corps with an honours list bearing the names of Louisburg, Rolcar, Vitoria, Talavera, Basaco, Fuentes D'Onor, Ciudad Rodriguez, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Orthes, Toulouse, Peninsula, Awa, South Africa 1847-7, Alma, Inkermann, Sevastopol, Central India, Abyssinia, Egypt 1882, and Tirah.

As for their service in South Africa during the Boer War, the glory of their achievements is still fresh in the public memory. The battalion landed at East London on 15th December, 1899 and proceeded by train to Sterkstroom, joining the 3rd Division under General Gatacre. They took part in many reconnaissances round Stormberg, and were engaged in the action of Bothulie Bridge, where Lieut. Popham gained his D.S.O. by extracting the wires of the dynamite charges in the road bridge. The battalion joined Gen. Bruce Hamilton's force on 29th April, 1900, being part of the eastern column of the general advance under General Ian Hamilton, and took part in the actions of Welton, Zand River, Johannesburg and Diamond Hill and the occupation of the towns of Winburg, Kroonstad, Lindley, and Pretoria. The following is an extract of an Army Order published by the Commander-in-Chief:—"The column under Lt.-Gen. Ian Hamilton marched 400 miles in 45 days, including 10 days halt; it was engaged with the enemy 28 times." In the Diamond Hill action the battalion lost 3 men killed and 2 officers and 21 men wounded. On the 22nd June, Gen. Smith-Dorrien wired as follows:—"Gen. Ian Hamilton spoke most highly of the behaviour of the old battalion in actions of 11th and 12th. I warmly congratulate you, and hope wounded are doing well."

On the return of the column to Pretoria it was ordered to immediately trek South across the Vaal in the direction of Bethlehem; the

battalion, when near the latter place, joined Colonel Broadwood's force in the chase after De Wet, who had broken through the cordon which resulted in the capture of Gen. Prinsloo's force at Witterberg. Leaving Col. Broadwood, it formed part of Gen. Fitzroy Hart's force and continued with same until the end of the operations which culminated in the Boer force slipping through Oliphant's Nek in the autumn of 1900.

Until the following March the battalion held the line at various places on the Johannesburg-Klerksdorp line. Joining Col. Dixon's column for operations in the Western Transvaal, it took part in the action of Vlakfontein on 29th May, 1901, in which 18 N.C.O.'s and men were killed and 4 officers and 60 men wounded. In this action two guns captured by the enemy early in the fight were retaken by the battalion. On the 30th September, 1901 (the column in the meantime having been taken over by Colonel Kekewich) it took part in the night attack at Moedwil by the Boers under Gen. Delarey, losing 1 officer and 18 N.C.O.'s and men killed and died of wounds, and 3 officers and 31 men wounded. The following is Colonel Kekewich's report on the action:—"All ranks of the battalion behaved splendidly, and I cannot speak too highly of their gallantry and good work under exceptionally difficult and trying circumstances."

Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum in a speech at Welbeck on 8th August last said:—"You will be interested to know, I am sure, also to know that the Yeomanry of the neighbourhood did excellent service, and that your territorial regiment the Sherwood Foresters have always distinguished themselves in a most marked manner during the war. They were one of the battalions that I most trusted, and on numerous occasions which you could perhaps remember, when they were under Colonel Kekewich and Colonel Dixon and were attacked by vastly superior numbers, they showed what true British soldiers are, and gave them a very good licking."

During the operations in the Western Transvaal the battalion took an active part in the capture of many prisoners and munitions of war. After the battle of Moedwil to the conclusion of hostilities the battalion formed part of the garrison of Rustenburg and held the long block-house line from Magato to Naauport.

The total number of casualties during the campaign were:—Killed in action, 38 N.C.O.'s and men; died of wounds, 1 officer and 21 N.C.O.'s and men; died of disease, 1 officer and 52 N.C.O.'s and men; wounded, 10 officers and 143 N.C.O.'s and men. Total casualties—Officers, 12; N.C.O.'s and men, 259. During the campaign the battalion marched a distance of 2,200 miles.

THE PARADE.

The ceremony of presenting the medals took place at five o'clock in the afternoon, but the corps was on the Parade Ground more than half-an-hour before that. Lieut.-Colonel H. Wyllie, C.B., was in command, with Captain T. H. M. Green, D.S.O., second in command. At a quarter to five o'clock the troops were formed into three sides of a square, and a few minutes later the Colours were carried on to the field under escort and took up their position in the centre of the line opposite the saluting base. The number on parade was as follows:—

Detail.	Officers.	W. & N.C.O. & Men.
On Parade	10	27
Sick, wounded and missing	1	1
On Guard	—	2
Detachment N. China	11	15
Other causes	10	3
Total not on Parade	22	20
Total effectives	32	47
Waiting to complete	—	1
Establishment	28	48
Super-numerary	4	—

Meanwhile a large number of spectators had congregated, in spite of the intense heat, to witness the presentation ceremony. The officers of the Headquarters Staff were on parade. Lady Gascoigne and Mrs. Wyllie were present, and among others who witnessed the proceedings were Sir William Goodman (Chief Justice),

Hon. F. A. May, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary), Mr. Justice Wise, and Bishop Hoare. At five o'clock Major-General Gascoigne arrived on the Parade Ground, accompanied by Major A. B. Hamilton, D.A.A.G. (A.), Chief Staff Officer, and Major the Hon. H. W. Trefusis, A.D.C., and was received with the general salute. The medals were placed on tables covered with Union Jacks. Stepping forward from the saluting base, and addressing the troops,

Major-General GASCOIGNE said—Colonel Wyllie and all ranks of the Sherwood Foresters, believe me it is a great honour to me to have been asked to present to you to-day the South African medals. We in Hongkong here perfectly remember the breathless interest with which we watched the progress of our arms in South Africa, beginning from the dark days of December nearly four years ago, and passing on to the gradually but all too slowly brightening days that followed, culminating in a fight to a finish and resulting in a peace which I believe will be permanent and lasting and which was honourable to both sides concerned. The South African War was unique of its kind—first of all, unique in the great natural difficulties which our arms had to overcome, and next, but above all, unique in the fact that the South African War woke us up for the first time to recognise the enormous latent solidarity of our glorious Empire. The Colonies, with one accord, came forward to help the Mother Country in a way which the Mother Country will never forget. It has cemented for ever the bonds of union between us. Side by side with the Colonial and Regular troops fought Yeomanry, Militia, Volunteers, and a number of those raised upon the spot, composed of men who had up to that time been civilians, but who came forward in the hour of stress and volunteered their services. So the war in South Africa was unique, and it will be looked back upon for ever as a marvellous historical event in our history. Colonel Wyllie, your regiment did more than its fair share of the arduous and trying work which was brought about—both arduous and trying combined. I have here a list of the services rendered by your battalion, and I know that the public of Hongkong would like to recognise the services performed by the regiment quartered in its midst. Suffice it for me just to read out for the present the following facts, which speak for themselves:—The total casualties of the regiment during the campaign were 12 officers and 259 non-commissioned officers and men. These include those who fell in the field, those who were wounded and died of their wounds, and the very small number—because it is a very small comparative number—of men who succumbed to disease. The regiment during the campaign marched 2,200 miles, and it had 49 people honourably mentioned in its ranks—quite apart, these, from the rank and file—49 people, resulting in the gift of two Victoria Crosses, 17 Distinguished Conduct Medals, and 14 promotions. Surely no regiment could wish for a better record than this. The regiment was praised, highly praised, by two Generals under whom it had served, but the only thing I should like to inflict upon you this afternoon, for I do not want to be tedious, is to read out to you a few words spoken by Lord Kitchener at Welbeck Abbey in August last concerning the regiment. Lord Kitchener said:—"You will be interested to know, I am sure, that your territorial regiment, the Sherwood Foresters, have always distinguished themselves in a most marked manner during the war. They were one of the battalions that I most trusted, and on numerous occasions which you could perhaps remember, when they were under Colonel Kekewich and Colonel Dixon and were attacked by vastly superior numbers, they showed what true British soldiers are, and gave them a very good licking." Colonel Wyllie, as I said, I have thought it a very high honour to have been asked to present you with your medals, and I should like to take this opportunity also of saying that since your battalion has been under my command, now nearly twelve months, there has been no unit in that command that has given me more complete satisfaction than your own. I can only wish we had the whole battalion here. There has been a complete

absence of crime. You yourself and your officers, I know, take a vast interest in your regiment; your non-commissioned officers are steady and respectable, and respected by the men, and the men themselves, who have shown how they can fight on active service, have shown here that they can prove themselves thoroughly good citizens in time of peace. It only establishes a theory I have formed after forty years' service—that the soldier who fights best in the field at the call of his country will also conduct himself in a self-respecting manner in time of peace. Men, though I am about to present these medals to you, I wish with all my heart they could have been given to you by your Sovereign and amongst your own friends and relatives at home. You went straight from a hard and arduous task in the field, you came straight to Hongkong, which has perhaps not the most popular climate in the world, but in all this you have acquitted yourselves as good soldiers of the King. I can now only wish you all with all my heart many years of health and prosperity in which to wear these medals which you have so thoroughly and so honestly earned.

The Officers and men then marched forward to the saluting base in rotation and were presented with the medals by His Excellency, who shook hands with each recipient before bestowing the decoration. At the conclusion of this ceremony, three hearty cheers and a "tiger" were given for the Sherwood Foresters, on the call of General Gascoigne, after which Colonel Wyllie dismissed the parade. Colonel Wyllie's medal was pinned on his breast by Lady Gascoigne. An "at home" was afterwards given by the officers at their mess.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

The following is the list of officers mentioned in despatches during the South African War:—Major-General H. L. Smith-Dorrien, D.S.O., mentioned three times.

Colonel G. C. Cunningham, C.B., D.S.O., once.

Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Wyllie, C.B., once.

Brevet Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Shaw, once.

Major C. N. Watts, twice, and Major G. S. C. Jenkinson, D.S.O., once.

Captain T. H. M. Green, D.S.O., once; Captain F. H. Weldon, D.S.O., once; Captain P. G. Rigby, twice; Captain M. P. Phelps, once; Captain F. J. Radford, once; Captain R. H. Keller, D.S.O., once; Captain P. F. R. Anley, twice; Captain P. Leveson-Gower, once; Captain F. Caswell, once; and Captain J. F. Ritchie, once.

Lieut. C. D. M. Harrington, twice; Lieut. H. V. Rhodes, twice; Lieut. C. J. L. Gilson, once; Lieut. W. H. Wilkin, once; Lieut. R. S. Popham, D.S.O., once; Lieut. G. L. H. Manby, once; Second Lieut. H. M. Milward, once; Lieut. G. E. Mills, once; Lieut. H. V. Percival, once; Lieut. H. F. Watson, D.S.O., once; and Qr. Master and Hon. Lieut. F. Tyler, once.

35 Mentions, 2 C.B.'s, 6 D.S.O.'s.

Local Maj.-General H. L. Smith-Dorrien, D.S.O., to be Maj.-General. To be Bt. Lt.-Cols. Majors F. C. Shaw and C. N. Watts; To be Bt. Majors, Capt. P. G. Rigby and M. P. Phelps. Qualified for Staff employ, Captain F. H. Weldon, D.S.O.

The following is the list of N.C.O.'s and men mentioned in despatches:—

Q.M.S. W. Roberts, D.C.M., once; Q.M.S. W. Bolton, once; S.M.A. Ewin, D.C.M., once; C.S.M. W. Seaton, D.C.M., twice.

Cr. Sgt. C. Randall, D.C.M., once; Cr. Sgt. A. Tobbell, once; Cr. Sgt. J. Herrod, twice; Cr. Sgt. H. Girling, once; Sgt. J. Gilham, D.C.M., once; Sgt. S. G. Jones, once; Sgt. W. Cooper, once; Sgt. A. W. Young, once; Sgt. C. Chambers, D.C.M., once; Sgt. W. Howard, once; Sgt. S. Fielding, once; Armr. Sgt. A. Avenall, D.C.M., once; Pioneer Sgt. A. Read, once; Lce. Sgt. H. Bailey (promoted Sergt.), once; Lce. Sgt. W. Coxon (promoted Sergt.), once; Lce. Sgt. W. Dowson, D.C.M., once.

Cpl. J. Simpson, once; Cpl. H. Beet, V.C., once; Lce. Gpl. R. Dixon (promoted Corpl.), once.

Pte. W. Baes, V.C., once; Pte. H. Alton, D.C.M., once; Pte. A. Bullons, D.C.M., once; Pte. J. Cunningham, D.C.M., once; Pte. R. Isaac, D.C.M., once; Pte. H. Marriott, D.C.M., once; Pte. A. Smith, D.C.M., twice; Pte. G. Maddison, D.C.M. (promoted Corpl.), twice.

Pte. T. H. Spencer, once; Pte. A. Holmes (promoted Corpl.), once; Pte. C. Marson (promoted Corpl.), once; Pte. C. McDermott (promoted Corpl.), once; Pte. J. Brierly (promoted Corpl.), D.C.M., twice; Pte. J. Worthington (promoted Corpl.), once; Pte. W. Boyle (promoted Corpl.), once; Pte. H. Sanderson (promoted Corpl.), once; Pte. J. Caveney (promoted Corpl.), once; Pte. C. Picard (promoted Corpl.), once; Pte. F. Bancroft (promoted Corpl.), once; Pte. F. Brooks, once.

49 Mentions, 2 V.C.'s, 17 D.C.M.'s, 2 promoted Sergt., 12 promoted Corporals.

THE NORTHERN CRISIS.

[SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED]

I.—THE MANCHURIAN QUESTION.

For the last four months, ever since the demand by Great Britain, the United States, and Japan that Russia should evacuate Manchuria and open the promised ports to the world's trade, Russia has been manoeuvring to gain the time necessary for the completion of fortifications at Port Arthur. She has drilled Chinese soldiers as auxiliary troops and has made her position in Manchuria so strong that now she is ready to make war—a thing that three months ago would have been impossible for her. The position of Russia in Manchuria has changed, and at the present moment she has more than 250,000 troops there. According to the latest telegrams, the Russian Minister of War has ordered the mobilisation of all troops in Manchuria as well as in the Siberian and Turkestan districts. Manchuria alone can give nearly 200,000 men, and 150,000 have already been moved from Kirin province (in the north) to the south. The mobilisation of corps from Kirin, Hailar, and Tsitsikar provinces has been completed; the other provinces will be ready with their contributions in a few days. A conference has been held between the principal Russian diplomatic officials and generals in Manchuria and China under the presidency of the Russian Minister of War: it was attended by, amongst others, General Kuropatkin; M. Lessar, Russian Minister in Peking; Generals de Wogack and Dessino, and Captain Netchyolodoff, the Russian war agents in China; M. Pavloff, Russian Minister in Corea; Colonel Baron de Raben, Russian war agent in Corea; Admiral Alexieff, Governor of Port Arthur; General Stesselt, President of the Russo-Chinese Bank in Peking; M. Dimitriez Pozdeev, and many others. The conference settled the Manchurian question. The Russian War Minister was personally against hostilities with Japan; war with Japan, he said, would be a grave issue; but although personally he was opposed to it, Russia could not withdraw her forces from Manchuria and make possible the Open Door policy. In this he was merely voicing the opinion of M. de Witte (now called Chancellor of the Russian Empire, and the first Chancellor since the days of the late Prince Gorchakoff), who said that Russia could never evacuate Manchuria, because she had expended there thousands of lives and millions of money. Count Lamsdorff, Minister of Foreign Affairs, recently told the Chinese Ambassador in St. Petersburg that he could not move in the matter of the evacuation of Manchuria or give assurances one way or the other, for the simple reason that the settlement of the affair had been entrusted to General Kuropatkin. All this indicates that Russia is ready for war, and that the time has passed when she must yield obedience to the Great Powers. Had the Powers issued an ultimatum to Russia three months ago, Russia almost for a certainty would have been bound to obey, because she had then only about 36,000 soldiers in Manchuria, and Port Arthur was not fortified on the land side. All is now changed, and the answer to any ultimatum would be in the negative. The position of the Great Powers is therefore also changed, just as the politics of England have been changed in consequence of the visit to that country of President

Loubet. Previously to that visit England undoubtedly would not have remained neutral in the event of war between Russia and Japan. But it is different now. The possibility of war between Russia and Japan formed the subject of conversation between the King and the President, and the decision came to was that England's interests in the question were not of sufficient importance to justify interference on her part, even though one of the nations at strife was her ally. Certain it is that if England invaded the Baltic with her fleet, Russian troops would be sent against India, where Russian secret agents of all kinds have for more than fifty years been striving to promote rebellion against the rule of Great Britain by specious promises of liberty and other privileges. Most of the revolts during the last thirty years have been the outcome of Russian influence, and even now the people of India only await the appearance of Russian soldiery in their territory to uprising once more in rebellion and fight the English under the command of Russian officers. It would be a comparatively easy task for Russia to pour troops into India by means of the railway she has built in Turkestan, which almost touches the frontiers of Afghanistan. This time it would not be a little war like the Boer War, and the cost to England in men and money would be stupendous. For these reasons England cannot, will not, make war against Russia on the side of Japan. Money she may give to Japan—before now Japan has received millions of English guineas—but any other kind of help, no. It is no secret that nearly all, if not quite all, of the Japanese men-of-war have been paid for with English money.* Nor will the United States fight against Russia. President Roosevelt and Secretary Hay would like to, perhaps, but not the American people, who speak their mind through Congress; and three-fourths of Congress oppose the idea on the ground of the enormous cost. Besides, America has too many trade interests with Russia to risk them in a war, and so she will not fight. That leaves Japan isolated. She has issued an ultimatum, and Russia awaits only the arrival of her Minister at St. Petersburg to reject the terms of that ultimatum and refuse to evacuate Manchuria; certainly after that ultimatum nothing remains for Japan but to declare war against Russia. The Japanese Government is not disposed to take that step, but the masses desire war, and their will must be that of the Government. The people of Japan have already clamoured for war, and had their wishes been gratified Japan would have stood a good chance of winning, for Russia at that time was not prepared. Now she is prepared, and the chance of Japan has gone by. Ere long Japan will have lost her footing in Corea, and so again, she will find herself undone. Russia is now the leading power in Manchuria and China and even, in part, in Corea, where the Emperor can do nothing without the approval of the Russian Minister. And that is one of the greatest reasons for the war.

II.—THE ARMIES OF JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

Of late there have been a mass of articles and telegrams fortelling an outbreak of war between Japan and Russia, and the Russian Government have been only awaiting the arrival of the Minister of War Kuropatkin from the Far East to give a firm refusal to the Japanese ultimatum, after which the Japanese Government can do nothing less than declare war.

Now I propose to give a full account of the Russian and Japanese forces, based on personal observations while travelling through Manchuria, Corea, and Japan. In Corea, Russia had only about 8,000 (now more) men on the banks of the Yalu River, near Wiju. There are no fortifications made, but these troops will be only the advance guard of the Russian army which will protect Manchuria. In the event of war this force will be supplemented by more than 10,000

* It will be understood that we in no way endorse these statements.—Ed. D. P.

men. The Japanese have very few regular troops in Fusan, Seoul, Chemulpo, and Gensan—altogether about 2,500—but they have about 32,000 men disguised in civilian clothes, employed as tradesmen and workmen on the railways, and these have ordnance and full munitions of war at hand. In Manchuria the Russians had, not more than one week ago, 100,000 men; but six days ago* the order of mobilisation was given and previously two divisions of Cossacks had been ordered to Manchuria from Russia. The mobilisation of the northern provinces—Kirin, Hailar, and Tsitsikar—had given more than 150,000 men to the south, and these troops are all mounted. The southern provinces can supply about 100,000 men, making in all 350,000 men without the forces from the Siberian districts, which can contribute no less than 400,000 men, although their transport to Manchuria could not be accomplished in less than two weeks. Of the fortified strongholds the most notable are certainly Port Arthur, Talienwan (Dalny), Newchwang, Inkow, Port Lazareff, Vladivostock, Blagovestchensk, and Moukden, in all of which places the Russians are hurriedly making preparations for war. In Newchwang they have built near the coast three batteries with cannon of different sizes and other fortifications and encampments. (If you go on a steamer you can see the batteries and four or five different encampments.) These encampments near Newchwang are mostly unoccupied, and that means that Russia will move a big force of troops to this place with a view to repelling any descent which the Japanese may make upon the coast near Newchwang. In Talienwan the Russians have made very little preparation in the way of fortifications, but they will in the course of a few days have it encircled in a series of forts. Should the Japanese come from Talienwan they would have to attack the Liaotung Isthmus and the Hsinhanchen Mountains, on two sides of which—from Talienwan and from Newchwang—the Russians have constructed big fortifications with magnificent artillery of all sizes. These positions could not be taken without terrible loss of life.

Port Arthur has been fortified for a number of years, but the fortifications constructed there last spring have made the stronghold a first-class fortress. Especially from the sea is Port Arthur strongly held. There you can find ordnance of all sizes from little Schnell-shooters, mortars, carronades, etc., to huge guns throwing shot weighing thousands of pounds. The Russians have also mounted there great dynamite cannon, one shot from which can destroy and sink a battleship of the biggest class. In addition to this, Port Arthur will certainly be protected in the strongest possible manner by torpedoes in the same way as Talienwan and Newchwang. The command of the fort will be taken by Admiral Alexieff, who is known as a famous strategist and brave general; and General Stesselt will probably take command of the First Army, which will occupy the Liaotung Isthmus and the Hsinhanchen Mountains, and undertake the defence of Port Arthur from the land side. General Stesselt's army will consist at first of 80,000 to 90,000 men. The Second Army will occupy Moukden, which has been very well fortified during the past year and will be able to offer a formidable defence against any attack on the part of the Japanese.

The general staff will be at Kharbin, and it is stated that the Minister of War, General of Infantry Kuropatkin, will take command of the entire force with the rank of Field Marshal. Vladivostock though not so strongly fortified as Port Arthur is sufficiently defended to make its capture a most difficult task for the Japanese. I had forgotten to state that the number of pieces of ordnance constituting the defence of Port Arthur exceeds 540 (without the light artillery which is with the army corps under General Stesselt), and this will be further supplemented by 72 cannons of the most recent Schnell-shooter type from the famous French firm of Schneider. Of these, 18 are at present

* i.e. six days before the 26th ult.

en route from Russia, and the remainder will be despatched at the first possible moment.

The Russian fleet is only 58 strong, and as regards construction and armament is not so formidable as the Japanese fleet; but the Russians have got two submarines (French type) and four others are due to arrive in a few days; and that addition to the Russian naval strength should decide the chances in favour of Russia. Then the Russian marines are known as brave and famous warriors—as witness the attack on the Taku forts—and the same can be said of the Cossacks; and that is a condition which has to be taken into account in the event of a war with Japan.

The Japanese Government have called to arms all reserves. All officers and soldiers who have been in the reserve since the operations in North China have been ordered to re-join their regiments immediately. A steamer of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha which was leaving Shanghai a few days ago carried back to Japan many hundreds of officers and men recalled by hurried orders. Now Japan has assembled all her forces in the neighbourhood of Nagasaki, Fukuoka, Kure, Moji, and in Hokkaido Bay, Sapporo, and Hakodate—in all, about 20,000 men. Within the last two or three days that number has been increased to 280,000 or 300,000 men; but after a declaration of war and the calling together of the second class (reserve), they must have in all something like a force of 400,000 men. The Japanese fortifications are being hurriedly repaired and the armaments remounted. Thousands of Japanese are working in the fortresses of Kumamoto, Nagoya, Ikayama, Hiroshima, Hamamatsu, Kanazawa, Fukui, Gifu, Tsuruga, Shizuoka, Yokohama, and Tokyo. It must be said at once, however, that nearly all Japanese fortresses are very badly constructed. They are built according to an old type, dating from the feudal days when every little prince or duke had his own city and was the ruler of his province. The forts are mostly in the middle of the city and the houses of the people are in many cases only a few metres distant from the forts. The castles themselves are often armed with artillery which is much too old to be of any use, though the garrisons are large enough to put up a good defence were they better supplied with ordnance. Only two or three of the fortified points, such as Kumamoto and Kanazawa, are built in the modern manner and have good artillery. In the present state of things Japan has neither time nor money to make the necessary improvements for placing her forts in a proper condition to repel attack if the war should be carried into Japan.

The Japanese naval force is stronger and more numerous than the Russian squadrons which are now at Port Arthur and Vladivostok. The Japanese battleships are superior. The whole Japanese fleet numbers 118 vessels, but one-third of these are old ships or small gunboats, so that the fighting force amounts to about 78 ships. But as mentioned above, the Russians have now two submarines and are waiting for four more, and these will give an enormous advantage to the Russians. The destructive capabilities of the submarines require to be understood to be believed. Given a good chance, a submarine can sink eighteen battleships in an hour, and a battleship in return can do nothing to the submarine but must make herself scarce if she would escape from being sunk.

Then the Japanese infantry is equal to the Russian or perhaps a little better, but the Japanese cavalry is nothing—bad horses and bad riders alike; while all who have seen the Cossacks on the field of battle admit that they are the best cavalry in the world. And it must be remembered that in a war in Manchuria the cavalry would have the principal part to play. Without cavalry an army would be lost. According to latest telegrams the Russians have drilled about 80,000 Chinese soldiers who will make very good auxiliary troops, taking charge of the provisions for the Russians and making guerilla war against the Japanese.

The last order of the Russian Minister in Peking to all merchants and agents in

Port Arthur and Newchwang was to send their families back to Russia because of the imminence of war. The Russian Admiral also has issued 50 or 60 letters of marque which would be sufficient to secure the blockade of all Japanese ports in the event of war, so that Japan's traffic and commerce with other countries would be paralysed.

III.—THE CHANCES OF WAR.

After the declaration of war, which now must be admitted to be a matter of days only, the Japanese forces will be divided into four armies. Of this I have certain information, secretly derived from a high Japanese official source. The first step must be the destruction of the Russian fleet, without which Japan cannot transport her troops to Manchuria and Russian territory. Therefore the first fight, or at least the first serious battle, must be a sea-fight. The question arises, Will the Russians send out their fleet from Port Arthur or not? If they venture out into the Gulf of Pechili, the struggle will certainly be in more advantageous circumstances for the Japanese, and the chances will be more in their favour. If the Russian fleet does not leave the shelter of Port Arthur, then the Japanese fleet must seek it there. This is a very different matter. The Russians will then have the support of their forts and the help of excellent fortress artillery. Victory for the Japanese would be an extremely difficult thing. Moreover the Russians have submarine boats and know how to use them. Should the Japanese fleet be crushed the war would already be half over. The small Japanese army in Corea, 35,000 or 40,000 strong, would soon be attacked by Russian troops in the proportion of about three to one, while the Russian fleet would cross over and bombard Yokohama and Tokyo. Russian troops would land at Atsuta and Tsuruga Bay and then at Yokohama itself. England holding back, Japan would be in an extremely bad fix. On the other hand, should the Japanese fleet be victorious at Port Arthur, then an attack would be made on the place itself. There are three ways of doing this. The attack from the sea is the hardest, for, as I have said, Port Arthur is fortified as a fortress of the first rank from the sea side and its capture would mean terrible losses to the assailants. The second way is to attack it from the side of Taliénwan. After the capture of that port (which would not be so hard) a southward movement would follow with a view to carrying the Hsinhanchen heights and obtaining command of the extreme end of the Liaotung Peninsula. This would, I think, be as difficult almost as the attack from the sea. The position at Hsinhanchen is a big mountain with a narrow pass between two high peaks, through which the railway runs. Easily approached from Port Arthur, the ascent from the side of Taliénwan is very difficult. The third plan open to the Japanese is to take possession of Newchwang, and even there batteries and troops are strong enough to offer a good resistance. Should fortune favour the Japanese the same position would still face them at the end of the Liaotung Isthmus as in the second alternative.

Should, however, Port Arthur fall from the sea side the Japanese would have to face the army of General Stesselt on the Liaotung Isthmus. If they captured the Isthmus, then there would be no obstacle before them until Moukden, where the second Russian army would await them and good fortifications. But if any one thinks that the capture of the Liaotung Isthmus and the Hsinhanchen position puts Port Arthur at the mercy of the Japanese, he is greatly mistaken. The place is now very strongly fortified on the land side, though of course not so strongly as from that of the sea. Again, if Port Arthur were captured from the sea, the Japanese would still have to storm the Hsinhanchen lines, which are also completely fortified on the Port Arthur side.

The Japanese second army in Corea already numbers from thirty-five to forty thousand men, disguised in every-day civilians' clothes. They will be on the spot immediately war is declared. Reinforced by troops from Japan,

bringing their numbers up to 80,000, they will occupy the principal cities of Corea, Seoul, Gensan, Chemulpo, and Fusan; and will proceed to drive from the north of Corea the Russians, who are in too small numbers to offer resistance and must withdraw. This army will then enter Manchuria and march westward to effect a junction with the other army and attack the Russian position at Moukden.

It is doubtful whether Japan will send troops to Vladivostok to cut up the railway and attack the Russians from the North. Japan has not sufficient men to send out four or five armies, and if a force were to be despatched to take the Russians in the rear it would have to be very strong, and protected from being surrounded and captured. Most probably Japan will confine her military operations to South Manchuria and content herself with merely bombarding Vladivostok and other Russian ports.

But this is only the beginning of war. Japan by herself can never finish a war with Russia to her advantage. Russia is too strong and her total forces are to Japan's as 18 to 1. Russia may thus lose during the first months of the struggle, but by continually sending new troops she must finally drive out the exhausted Japanese. This certainly means financial ruin to Russia. But Japan can never win, and if Russia be ruined Japan will not only be ruined but will lose all the power she has now. There will be a terrible difference between Japan's state now and her state after the war. The Japanese Government sees this, as we do, but it can do nothing. The people is spurred on by the Press to listen to no reason.

There remains the question whether, if Japan were thoroughly exhausted, England would be bound by the terms of the treaty of alliance to come to her assistance. She knows that if she were to declare war against Russia, France would declare war against her, by the terms of the Dual Alliance. This means a world-wide war. It is true that all this is speculative, but it is speculation based on good and sound information.

IV.—THE REASONS FOR THE WAR.

Every man who has been keeping himself informed on affairs in the North, and who sees the imminence of war between Russia and Japan, must have asked himself "Why war? What are the reasons for war?" He asks these questions of himself because he cannot believe that Russia's refusal to evacuate Manchuria and declare the open-door policy would induce Japan to resort to the arbitrament of the sword. And that is true. Japan will not go to war because of these things. The reason must be sought elsewhere. And where? In England. England is the Power that is secretly bringing about this world tragedy. Why? Because it is necessary to England that Russia and Japan should make war each upon the other and ruin themselves. And they must be ruined by such a war, for if Russia does not destroy the Japanese fleet in the very first battle Japan may invade Manchuria.

Thus the war will be a long and ruinous one, and the wish of England be gratified. It has long been the desire of England to see Russia out of the way, and this is the method she takes to accomplish her ends. Russia and Japan are the two leading Powers in the Far East, and in the striving of each for premier place England sees her chance. She has long stirred up Japan to make war against Russia, but hitherto without success. Japan believes that England will redeem her promises and defray the expenses of the war, and that if she is stricken by Russia, England will come to her assistance. Yes, England will come forward and help Japan, but only after Japan has been ruined for ever. Then, when the war is over, and Russia and Japan, the two leading Powers, are ruined and out of the way, England will usurp the position of leading Power in the Far East and take the places now held by Russia and Japan.

All this is but too evident. Japan, without

the assurances and promptings of England would never begin a war that she cannot last out. But the people and the Press in Japan, blinded and made frenzied by the promises held out by England, are clamouring for war, and if the Government would save the dynasty from danger it must declare war. Neither Japan nor Russia will gain anything by the war. England, and only England, will reap the harvest.

The actual reason for the war, however, will be the firm refusal of Russia to evacuate Manchuria at the request of Japan, as conveyed in her ultimatum, and to yield to Japan the concessions received by the Government of the Tsar from the Korean Emperor. After that refusal the people of Japan will become so frantic and so incensed against Russia that the Government must bow to the will of the masses and declare war. The adoption of any other course would bring revolution in its train, and so the will of the people must be obeyed.

REQUIEM MASS FOR THE LATE POPE LEO XIII.

AN IMPRESSIVE SERVICE.

In the Roman Catholic Cathedral, on the 29th ult., at 8.30 a solemn requiem high mass for the late Pope Leo XIII was celebrated in presence of a congregation that completely filled the building and represented all classes of the colonial community. The service was conducted by the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli, assisted by the Fathers of the Italian Mission, the Missions Etrangères de Paris, and the Spanish Dominican Mission. Among those present were the sisters and pupils of the French and Italian Convents, and the pupils of St. Joseph's College under the direction of the Brothers of the Christian schools. In special seats in the transepts were Senhor Conselheiro A. G. Romano, Consul-General for Portugal and Consul for Brazil; Chev. Z. Volpicelli, Consul for Italy and Austria-Hungary; Mr. A. P. Marty, Consul for Spain; Mr. Th. Hamman, Consul for Belgium; Mr. Ed. Muelle, Consul for Peru; Mr. J. J. Leiria, Vice-Consul for Brazil; Commodore C. G. Robinson, Naval Yard; Captain P. J. J. Radcliffe, Royal Engineers; and there were also present officers and men from H.B.M.'s Navy, the Sherwood Foresters, the Royal Garrison Artillery, the Royal Engineers, and the Indian regiments.

The Cathedral was draped in mourning. The pillars were encircled with black, and festoons of sombre drapery hung upon the walls. Between the transepts was placed the catafalque, a lofty structure on the base the emblems of death, while upon the black and silver velvet pall were laid the Pope's tiara and the pontifical robes. As the reverend Bishop with accompanying procession of priests and acolytes, all dressed in rich attire, filed from the vestry to the nave and took their places in front of the altar, the congregation rose and made devout obeisance, and soon through the building rang the sonorous tones of the priests as they sang the requiem mass, and in response the choristers' voices rose to the accompaniment of the organ in the beautiful music of Pope Gregory. At the conclusion of the celebration of the solemn mass, the exequies were entered upon. There were five absolutions for the deceased Pontiff, each absolution being performed by a representative of a different Mission. The first to perform this ceremony, sprinkling the catafalque with holy water and bearing round it the incense-burner, was Rev. Father P. de Maris, Pro-Vicar Apostolic, Italian Mission; then followed in succession Rev. Father D. A. Lecomte, Superior of the House of Nazareth, Pokfulum, French Mission; Rev. Father F. R. Noval, Vice-Procurator, Spanish Mission; Rev. Father Andrew Leong, Chinese Mission; and lastly the Right Reverend Bishop Piazzoli, who administered the final absolution. Thus was brought to a close a most impressive ceremony. The congregation afterwards dispersed.

During the service the Cathedral bell tolled a funeral knell. Mr. O. Baptista presided at the organ. The French Consul, M. Beau, was unable to be present and sent an apology and condolences to the Bishop.

THE INQUEST ON MR. HECTOR SAMPSON.

The inquest concerning the death of Mr. Hector Sampson at Shanghai was concluded at the British Consulate on the 23rd ult.

Dr. Neil Macleod stated that on Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. he was summoned to 3, Peitaiho Lane. When he arrived Mr. Sampson had been dead two or three hours. Death was evidently due to an extensive gunshot wound in the head and must have been instantaneous. From the position and condition of the wounds of entrance and exit; the bullet mark on the wall; the position and attitude of the body in the bed; the position of the limbs and that of the weapon; and a mark on the right big toe, witness was of opinion that the wound was self-inflicted.

Lu Ah-tsung, house-boy of the deceased, cautioned, said that he remembered his master coming home at about 5.30 on Tuesday evening. Mrs. Sampson was just going out and she asked her husband if he was going. Deceased said that he was going to have a bath. They went upstairs together. Witness went to have some food and did not hear his mistress go out. About 6.30 he went to prepare the bed and found that the door was closed. He knocked and as no one answered went in. He thought his master was asleep, but on going nearer saw that he had a gun in his hand, that there was blood on the bed, and that his master was dead. Witness got frightened and left the room. He asked the cook to go and find Mrs. Sampson and deceased's brother. The cook could not find Mrs. Sampson, but she came back about 7 p.m. in a carriage. He did not hear any report, but the cook's wife who was out in the yard heard it and thought that someone next door was opening a soda-water bottle. Mr. Sampson never sent for or called witness after he had gone to his room.

By a jurymen—Mr. Sampson did not appear excited when he came home; on the contrary, he could hear Mr. and Mrs. Sampson talking and laughing as they went upstairs. Mrs. Sampson went upstairs with Mr. Hutchison, who lived at 9, Peitaiho Lane.

Frederick Gordinus Nielsen deposed that he had married Mrs. Sampson's sister. He last saw deceased alive at about 2 p.m. on Tuesday, at tiffin. Witness was intimately acquainted with deceased and knew that he had been in bad health for some time. During the last four or five days, he had complained of having a dull pain in the back of the head. He had not seen a doctor recently, but some time between February and April deceased had one or two very bad attacks of vomiting blood. He saw Dr. Milles then. Lately he had been suffering a good deal from sleeplessness. Witness could not say whether deceased was worried about anything, because he always appeared to be very optimistic. Witness had not found any papers. Mr. Sampson appeared to suffer a great deal from the heat. He had told witness that 25 years ago a doctor told him that he would not live more than six months.

Frederick Albert Sampson said that he was a brother of the deceased. He last saw deceased about a month ago. On Tuesday evening his brother's cook came round to 31, North Soochow Road, where he was staying, and said that his master had shot himself. Witness had looked through his papers and pockets, but had failed to find anything which afforded any reason for deceased's act. His brother was very cheerful. In the spring he had told witness laughingly that the doctor had given him three months to live. Deceased had as long as witness could remember, about 16 years, suffered from neuralgic headaches and always carried menthol about with him. On Tuesday he played billiards at the Masonic Club before going home, and two men there declared that he was playing with them at 6.30, about the time he died.

The Coroner, addressing the jury, said that he thought they had heard all the available evidence in this matter and that he did not think they would have much difficulty in coming to a conclusion. From the evidence put before them he thought they could come to no other conclusion than that the deceased died by his own hand. In the evidence no reasonable cause was shown for his doing so, but his brother-in-law had said that he had had very bad health for some time, and also that he had

complained of a pain in his head. Taking into consideration the hot weather and bad health of the deceased, it was probable that he took his own life.

The jury returned a verdict of "suicide during temporary insanity accelerated by the excessive heat of the past week."

HANKOW-CANTON RAILWAY.

EXPERIENCES OF THE ENGINEERS IN HUNAN.

Mr. D. Minor Mickle, an American engineer engaged on the construction of the Hankow-Canton railway, writes to the *Shanghai Times* a letter in which he gives a glowing account of the fertility of the province of Hunan and the contentment and prosperity of the people. Mr. Mickle writes from Yo Chow and he says:—

Our line now runs through almost unbroken stretches of magnificent, fertile valley, every foot of which is under cultivation and made to yield its utmost towards the sustenance of the great population. And this population, while numerous, is not in the least congested. There seems to be room for all and a little for future addition. We have not seen a single sign of distress, although the people do not live in affluence. There is no indication that wealth is concentrated in the hands of the few at the expense of the many. The people have all they need to eat and comfortable houses to live in. True these houses do not come up to the standard of habitations of the working classes of the United States, but there are many reasons why that is not to be expected. As for their rations, it is not uncommon for our party to turn from the cold tiffin which we have brought out to us while at work, to the more appetising meals of fresh meats and vegetables which we can buy in the open market and have cooked at the nearest farmhouse when midday comes. We have not seen a single beggar outside of the larger cities. The people are beyond doubt honest. During all the time we have been among them, passing from village to village, our baggage handled by innumerable coolies, open to the inspection of not only our own servants but those of the places in which we stopped, and not unfrequently to crowds of native residents who come into our apartments (according to the universal custom of this country) to see what the strangers look like and live like, with abundant opportunity to steal if so inclined, not an article has been found missing. Yet we have all carried money in our baggage, which has been at all times left in the hands of our personal servants to pack and care for.

All along this line we have found the people in most friendly mood. Everywhere we are greeted with smiles. In no instance have we been made to feel like intruders. No aversion to the railroad has been shown at any point. This was something of a surprise to us after the exciting times we had passed through in a few of the completely isolated villages of our first line. We are told that this is in large measure due to the fact that we have followed the telegraph line, over the introduction of which a fight had been made some five or six years ago, the benefit of which we are now reaping, since it has broken in the people to the idea of having foreigners among them.

About noon on the 28th ult., the red cone, point downwards, denoting a typhoon to the south of the Colony with its centre more than three hundred miles away, was hoisted, and at five o'clock was replaced by the black cone, also pointing down, denoting that the typhoon was still to the south but within three hundred miles of the Colony.

The *Novy Krai* of Port Arthur learns from Vladivostok that the authorities have decided as to the future of that place. It is reported that the seat of the Government will be transferred to Nikolai, as will also several administrative departments, such as the Customs Department and the District Board. In proportion as Vladivostok ceases to be of importance as a centre of administration it will be developed on other lines. Thus, the Admiralty buildings are to be enlarged, and several barracks are to be built in various quarters of the town. It thus seems certain that Vladivostok is destined to lose its character as a commercial centre, and to be converted into a military supporting base.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 27th July.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER.

Chang Kang was charged with having, on 23rd May, killed one U Pak Chi by pushing him into the harbour.

He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors). The Hon. Attorney-General Sir Henry S. Berkeley (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor) conducted the prosecution.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. J. D. Osmond, E. H. Summers, J. S. Douglas, C. Perkins, H. T. Bunje, F. G. Chunnett, and J. A. Stopani.

The Attorney-General, in opening the case for the Crown, stated that on the day in question about six o'clock the prisoner with two others was working on the s.s. *Namking* lying on the east side of the Macao wharf. The deceased man U Pak Chi and another man called U Kwan were carrying a bale of goods from the *Praya* to the Macao steamer *Hangsum* lying on the west side of the wharf. Prisoner and the other two men referred to appeared to have been standing on the wharf and to have been in the way of U Pak Chi and U Kwan, who were carrying the bale. The bale-carriers shouted to them to get out of the way, but they refused to move and the result was a collision. A quarrel and a fight ensued, and evidence would be called to say that in the course of the disturbance the prisoner with both hands pushed U Pak Chi over the side of the wharf into the water, and he was drowned.

After evidence had been given for the Crown, two witnesses were called for the defence and deposed that the accused was on board the *Namking* when the deceased was said to have been pushed over the side of the wharf.

The jury by a majority of six to one found the accused not guilty, and he was accordingly discharged.

The Court rose.

Wednesday, 29th July.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

DELAY IN BRINGING ON ACTIONS—STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

The case was called of Li Yu Nam and others against Kwong Han Shau—No. 91 of 1899.

The Registrar (Mr. A. Seth) stated that the solicitors in the case were Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist and Messrs. Deacon & Hastings.

Neither party was represented.

His Lordship said: I understand that the defendants contend that the case was settled by some arrangement some time ago, and the defendants do not come here to dispute that settlement. I think I must deal with this case under Section 296 of the Civil Code, and that Section says that when a cause is called on for trial, if neither party appears, the Court may, if it thinks fit, strike the cause out of the trial paper. I strike this cause out of the trial paper under Section 296 of the Code. I should like to make one or two observations with regard to delay on the part of the parties in bringing on causes for trial which have been set down for trial a long time ago and have been transferred in due course from the general trial list to the paper. A cause is set down for trial in the general paper when the parties apply to the Court to have it set down. When in due course it is transferred from that general trial list to what is called in the Code the trial paper, due notice of that is given to the parties, and they ought to be ready for the cause to be heard when it is reached in consecutive order. Some time ago I looked carefully through the trial paper, the paper, that is, of cases which are ripe for hearing and are only awaiting the hearing by the Court when the Court has an opportunity of hearing them;

and I noticed that at the head of that trial paper there were three actions which, it appears to me, ought to have been disposed of long ago. The first of these was the case No. 85 of 1899 (Hung Wau Yuk and another against Ng Lee Hing) and that was set down in the trial paper on the 30th of July, 1900, that is, practically three years ago. Yet neither of the parties brought that case on, and so here was an old case with which nothing was being done and in which no steps had been taken for three years. I called attention to that and peremptorily fixed this day, the 29th of July, having given the parties full notice, for the hearing of that cause. The result was that the parties withdrew the cause, showing that it had no business to encumber the list; and if they did not wish the cause brought on on either side they ought to have communicated with the Registry and have had it struck out of the list. That was a claim to a trade-mark and goodwill. Well, then I took the same steps in the present case of Li Yu Nam and others against Kwong Han Shau, which had been set down for trial in the trial paper on the 17th of November, 1901. Now it appears that neither party is prepared to go on with the cause or wishes it gone on with, and some paper has been filed by the defendants themselves from which they seem to have settled the matter by some reference in China, much of the subject-matter of the action having taken place in China. It is but right to say that the defendant's solicitors gave notice of that to the Registry, but I should like to point out that the proper party to give that notice is the solicitor for the plaintiff. Section 317 of the Code says that if an action is settled by mutual agreement or compromise the agreement is to be recorded and the action disposed of in accordance therewith. And then, too, Sub-section 2 of the same Section No. 317 says that notice of such compromise is to be given by the plaintiff or, if a solicitor is employed, by his solicitor to the Registry, together with such particulars as may be required of him, within one week after the same has been made, and in default thereof plaintiff or his solicitor, as the case may be, shall be deemed guilty of a Contempt of Court and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly. Well, it appears now that neither party wishes to go on with this case and it has been settled, and if I had not taken the peremptory step of fixing this day it would have gone on year after year encumbering the list and making it appear as if there was considerable delay in this Court in hearing causes which are on the list. Well, there was a third cause which I had fixed for to-day, a cause which was begun earlier than any of the others. It was begun in 1897 and it was down in the trial paper to come on for trial in February of 1901. Neither party took any steps to bring it on. It was a claim for an injunction and damages. The result of my fixing to-day was that yesterday a summons was heard on behalf of the defendants, asking for further security for costs as the plaintiff was a person resident without the jurisdiction of the Court, and I granted an order requiring \$3,000 more to be given as security for costs within three weeks, and if that was not done the action should stand dismissed with costs. I only make these remarks because I see there are some other actions which have been put down for hearing, none, I think, in an earlier stage than last year; and I want to point out that if there is delay in settling these matters the delay is the fault of the parties themselves and not of the Court. On the part of the Court there is a strong desire that justice should be administered as promptly as possible. I trust that those solicitors who have cases that have been down for a long time will bring them on for trial or have some valid reason why they should not actually be tried. Recently I have been asked to deal with various cases which have been set down for only three or four weeks while there are others that have been set down for a year and a half that have never been brought on by the parties at all. I naturally wish to take the cases, as far as I can, at such time as is most convenient to the parties, but I do not want to be trying cases that have only been set down for a few weeks when there are others untried that have been set down in some instances for more than a year. However, as far as the present cause

goes, I strike the cause out of the trial paper, and so clear the paper of some old causes that should have been brought on for hearing some time ago by the parties or else should have been withdrawn.

The Court adjourned.

Thursday, 30th July.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

AN UNFORTUNATE GUARANTOR.

Francis Henry Barnes, clerk, lately residing at No. 5, Moeque Junction, was examined in bankruptcy—Case No. 10 of 1897.

In reply to questions by Mr. Bruce Shepherd, Official Receiver, the bankrupt stated that when the receiving order was granted against him he was a clerk in the Ordnance Store Department. Another employee in the same Department, Allenson, approached him one day, weeping, and informed him that he was in financial difficulties and was threatened with immediate arrest. Being a friend of Allenson, he along with another man named Baptista, became his guarantor for \$1,200. As a result Allenson was not put into prison. Allenson afterwards failed to pay up the instalments of the loan to his creditors and when a suit was being brought for recovery of it he absconded to Canton and from there went to Shanghai. The bankrupt said he was informed that Allenson was dead; since he became guarantor he had not heard from him.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd—He has run away and let you in?

Bankrupt—Yes. Continuing, he said that when the Indian creditors commenced proceedings he was afraid to go into Court, but as his co-guarantor, Baptista, filed a bankruptcy petition he took the same step. The creditors got judgment against him on the guarantee and not on any private debt. He filed the petition to avoid arrest. He had no money to meet the guarantee and never had had any money.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd—Why did you give the guarantee?

Bankrupt—Well, Allenson was a friend of mine and I was then only about 21 years of age and did not know very well the responsibility I was incurring, and, having confidence that Allenson would pay this money I signed the guarantee.

In further evidence bankrupt stated that he had to keep himself out of his salary, and out of \$40 a month he was paying \$10 for the maintenance of his sister in the convent. After the bankruptcy he could not pay that and had to stop it altogether. He offered his creditors 50 per cent. to be paid out of his salary. Baptista, he understood, did the same.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd—What were your private debts at this time?

Bankrupt—I had no private debts.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd—Then you had no other reason for going into bankruptcy?

Bankrupt—No.

His Lordship—What is your present salary?

Bankrupt—I am getting \$15.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd—You are not in the Ordnance Department now?

Bankrupt—No; I am with the Singer Company; I left the Ordnance in 1899 and went down to Manila.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd—Your sister is now wealthy, I believe?

Bankrupt—I was told she had something.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd—Will she not help you?

Bankrupt—I do not think she will.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd—Any balance of the 50 per cent. due you are now willing to pay?

Bankrupt—Yes.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd—Can you pay more?

Bankrupt—No; I am married and have a family.

Mr. Bruce Shepherd—That is all, I think, my Lord.

His Lordship, addressing the bankrupt, said he hoped this would be a lesson to him. All that could be said for him was that he was a young man at the time. Nothing was more ridiculous than to become security for \$1,200 when he had not \$100 of his own, and to go and gratuitously put his neck into a noose for the rest of his life was an extremely foolish thing.

to do. A guarantee such as he had signed meant that if the debtor did not pay he would have to, and what was the good of signing a guarantee if he knew he could not pay if the debtor failed to pay? The guarantee of a man who could not pay was no good at all. His Lordship advised him to avoid for the rest of his life becoming security for people under any circumstances, especially when he was a married man; his first duty was to his family and not to boon companions who let him in and left him as this man had done. He had said he did it for a friend. Such a man was no friend at all.

The examination was closed.

The Court afterwards adjourned.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 30th July.

SIR.—There will be started in this Colony a Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals as suggested by Mr. E. A. Hewitt in his letter published in your issue of the 25th instant, and while heartily supporting the views expressed therein I would suggest that a similar society might be formed for the prevention of cruelty to human beings in the Colony of Hongkong.

In view of the numerous letters recently published in the local papers re the enforcement of the new Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, it is within the knowledge of almost every member of this community that the comfort of the Chinese residents in this Colony is very little considered, and that under the existing Ordinance above referred to, all cubicles in tenement houses that are considered illegal, are to be demolished without considering the hardships inflicted and inconvenience caused to those whose circumstances are not so easy as those of some of their fortunate fellow-beings who could well afford to take up their residence at the Peak.

To prevent overcrowding among the Chinese is universally acknowledged to be a step taken in the right direction, but what good can result if the Government makes no provision for the ready accommodation of the displaced inhabitants who are now flocking about like ship-wrecked people in search for shelter? The question now is, Where are these displaced people to go to? Since the Government has thought fit to enact such Ordinance, why should they not provide cheap dwellings for the poor and labouring class before the law is actually put in force?

It remains yet to be seen whether this action on the part of the Government proves successful or not in the way of improving the health of the general public for which purpose this very Ordinance was originally enacted.

The Chinese are now petitioning the Government praying for permission to re-erect the cubicles already demolished. Let us hope that the Government will grant their prayer and that that section of the Ordinance relating to cubicles will be modified and amended in due course.

Thanking you for the insertion of this in your valuable paper.—Yours, etc.,

POOR CHINAMAN.

OVERCROWDING AND LOCOMOTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 29th July.

SIR.—In dealing with the overcrowding question it is admittedly necessary to consider what accommodation is available for housing the persons to be displaced from the overcrowded areas, and in every scheme which involves the destruction of tenement houses or artisans' dwellings at home provision for the unhoused population takes a very prominent part.

Our Sanitary Board is now considering the destruction of cubicles in the central parts of the town and the necessary disturbance of a large number of residents, Chinese and others, and the question arises where are these residents to go to?

It will be argued that there are numbers of empty houses at Wanchai, Bowrington, North Point, Kennedytown, and the Kowloon villages, available at very moderate rents. Until, however, the new Victoria tramway and

the Kowloon tramway are in operation there are no cheap and rapid means of communication between the localities named and the central parts of the City, to which the majority of the residents likely to be displaced are bound to come daily in order to reach their offices and shops. Rickshas are comparatively expensive, especially for long distances, and the saving in rent is not likely to be sufficient to meet the cost of 40 cts a day for ricksha-hire. Walking in a Hongkong summer, whether in rain or sun, is out of the question for those whose occupations are of a sedentary nature (and I think most of the persons likely to be affected belong to this class).

But in Hongkong (as in London) we have an alternative means of locomotion, i.e., by water, and my object in writing this letter is to suggest that a system of cheap but powerful and rapid ferry-launches should be run in the mornings and evenings from the outskirts to the centre of the Colony. If the suburbs were thus brought into easy communication with the centre I feel sure that one of the greatest objections to moving from the centre would be overcome.

One line of ferries might run from North Point to Kennedytown and back, calling at the principal public piers en route; another line should run from Shamsui, and after calling at Taikotsui and other villages to the north of Yaumati, cross over to Blake Pier; while a third line should run from Kowloon City via Matakok and Tokawan to Blake Pier. Such ferry lines might be assisted by the Government at small expense by providing them with bamboo jetties free of cost in the outlying districts, and permitting the use of the public piers in Victoria.

The Star Ferry Co., which has, I believe, a large reserve of capital and launches, might operate one or more of these routes, whilst there are numerous Chinese-owned launches available for the remaining routes.

There is no need to wait for the construction of expensive permanent ways, or elaborate machinery: the sea is there ready made and open to all.

Trusting that this suggestion may be of some assistance in solving a most difficult problem.—Yours, etc.,

DECENTRALISATION.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 28th July.

OPERATIONS AGAINST THE KWANGSI REBELS.

Preparations for a vigorous campaign against the Kwangsi rebels are being pushed forward. The Viceroy some little time ago issued a proclamation calling on them to surrender. In answer to this bills were posted up by the rebels in several towns stating that they were quite willing to surrender if ex-Governor Wong were executed, but not before. It seems that they fear his return to power. The rebels also state that they bear no illwill towards the Cantonese soldiers, but will never give in to the men of Hunan. The Hunanese are considered to be the best fighting-men in China, and there are large numbers of them in the Two Kwang, where they are hated as "foreigners."

The famous general Fung Tsze Tsoi will sail for Canton in a few days from Yamchow (Chin Chow). One thousand soldiers have lately joined his command there, and they will presumably accompany him to the capital and later on to Wuchow, where he will begin operations against the rebels. General Fung will be remembered as the victor of Langson and though he is advanced in years, he is quite up to the work before him—according to report.

THE MAGIC OF THE VICEROY'S NAME.

In Canton, where a few months ago one heard of almost daily burglaries and armed robberies, peace seems to be prevailing at present. The magic of Viceroy Shen's name is acting upon robbers and police alike—the former are terrified, while the latter are burning with zeal to win the approbation of their new chief. Hence between the two the city is enjoying quiet—a great contrast to the state of affairs at New Year. Outside the walls, however, matters appear to be as bad as ever. News has been received that an officer named Cheng, who was proceeding by land to Kwangsi

with a small body of braves, was attacked by robbers and his valiant soldiers overcome and plundered. A soldier named Lum, who was conveying a despatch from Canton to Wuchow for the Viceroy, was also robbed of his charge at about the same time at King Ting village.

EDUCATION.

To turn to peaceful matters. The number of schools in Canton where foreign subjects are being studied is increasing every year. I hear that the Ellis Kadoorie school inside the old city has been taken over by Mr. Tang, the editor of the *On Nga* newspaper. Mr. Tang is an able and cultured man. He spent several years in Europe and America, and is fully conversant with the best methods of teaching, and his school will doubtless be a great success. I should mention that there are still two branches of the Ellis Kadoorie establishment in Canton.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

MASS FOR THE LATE POPE.

Canton, 29th July.

A solemn requiem mass for the late Pope Leo was held to-day, at 10 a.m., in the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the French Mission, and among the congregation present were the Consular authorities, naval officers, a contingent of French marines, European civilians and ladies, and General Kwong Hip. His Excellency the Viceroy was represented by vicarins and interpreters. The Church was draped in black and a catafalque was erected in the middle of the nave. As soon as the mass was finished the requies service was sung. All the members of the Roman Catholic community were invited.

KWANGSI REBELLION.

It is reported in Canton that His Excellency Shum, the new Viceroy has had a bad time in Kwangsi with the rebels. Besides being twice defeated the Imperialist soldiers were completely surrounded by the rebels who robbed them of their rice and ammunition. It is said that His Excellency hastened to Siu Hing to telegraph to Peking for reinforcements of Hunan soldiers. His Excellency on arrival at Canton quickly ascertained that the Treasury was at a low ebb, and he ordered one-fourth of the number of soldiers in Canton to be disbanded. Finding now that more soldiers are required, as one-half of the number has been taken to Kwangsi, the Viceroy has issued orders for the enlistment of more men.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

The fountain this week presents the rare sight of *Eichh. rufa speciosa* in flower. It is a native of the warm lagoons of Brazil and is much cultivated in European gardens, though very seldom flowering. This is one of the many interesting novelties obtained by Lady Blake from Chinese cultivators and presented to the Botanic Gardens. If, as we understand, it came from Canton it would be interesting to know how the plant reached China from Brazil.

There are several plants of *Plumbago capensis* in flower in different parts of the gardens. The colour of the flowers is rather uncommon, being a pleasing, light shade of blue. There are two bushes near the large Royal Palm in the new garden and several others on the banks below the rain-gauge. Though an African plant, it is clearly well adapted for our climate, for the flowers are produced in the greatest profusion. It is an old favourite in England as it has been in cultivation since 1818.

The Coral tree, *Brythrina Crista-galli*, makes a brilliant show at this time of the year. One tree may be seen just on the right at the bottom of the steps at the Albany entrance and another near the statue of Sir Arthur Kennedy, but the latter is not quite at its best yet. Two other trees are very conspicuous on one of the banks to the west of the deer-pen in the new garden.

There is a capital patch of colour on the lower terrace in the old garden produced by the bright red leaves of an *Amaranthus*.

The rainfall since the 22nd July has been 1.76 inches only.

WILLIAM POWELL, LIMITED.

The report of the above Company, for presentation to the shareholders at the second ordinary general meeting to be held on Wednesday next, is as follows:

The directors now beg to submit their report on the working of the Company for the year to 30th June, 1903.

The profit and loss account, including the sum of \$4,182.85 brought forward from 30th June, 1902, shows a credit balance of \$26,961.39, which your directors propose to appropriate as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 10 per cent., absorbing	\$12,000.00
To write off stock on hand	7,900.00
To write off fixtures and fittings	1,566.85
To write off goodwill	1,265.40
To write off bad debts	371.72
To carry forward to new account	4,757.42
	\$26,961.39

DIRECTORS.

In accordance with the articles of association Messrs. Thos. H. Reid and W. Clement Dray retire, but are eligible for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Mr. W. H. Gaskell, having returned to the Colony, resumed the audit of the books, and your directors recommend his re-election.

THOS. H. REID,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 20th July, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

For the year ending 30th June, 1903.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital—12,000 shares at \$10	120,000.00		
Bills payable	773.83		
Accounts payable	3,267.21		
Dividends uncollected	142.50		
Profit and loss account	26,961.39		
	\$151,144.92		
ASSETS.		\$	c.
Stock on hand	100,935.40		
Fixtures and fittings	4,166.85		
Goodwill	6,265.40		
Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	28,186.29		
Cash in hand	2,050.06		
F. A. Vitali, London agent	1,080.75		
Accounts receivable	8,450.77		
	\$151,144.92		

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the year ending 30th June, 1903.

Dr.		\$	c.
To directors' and auditor's fees	1,100.00		
To balance	26,961.39		
	\$28,061.39		
Cr.		\$	c.
By balance from 30th June, 1902	4,182.85		
By bad debts recovered	865.41		
By interest account	457.18		
By transfer fees	33.10		
By balance of working account	22,562.85		
	\$28,061.39		

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The following is the seventy-sixth report of the court of directors to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders to be held at the City Hall on the 15th inst., at noon.

Gentlemen.—The directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Bank and balance-sheet for the half-year ending 30th June, 1903.

The net profits for that period, including \$1,435,472.73, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to \$3,590,683.17.

The directors recommend the transfer of \$500,000 from the profit and loss account to credit of the silver reserve fund, which fund will then stand at \$6,000,000.

They also recommend writing off bank premises account the sum of \$200,000.

After making these transfers and deducting remuneration to directors there remains for

appropriation \$2,875,683.17, out of which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of one pound and ten shillings sterling per share, which at 1/6 will absorb \$533,333.33.

The difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend is declared, and 1/8, the rate of the day, amounts to \$908,666.67.

The balance \$1,435,683.17 to be carried to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. D. M. Moses, Mr. G. Balloch, and Mr. G. H. Medhurst having resigned their seats on leaving the Colony, Messrs. E. Shellim, H. W. Slade, and E. S. Wheeler have been invited to fill the vacancies; these appointments require confirmation at this meeting.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts and Mr. A. G. Wood; the latter acting in the place of the Honourable C. S. Sharp, who is absent from the Colony.

A. J. RAYMOND,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 28th July, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

30th June, 1903.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Paid-up capital	10,000,000.00		
Sterling reserve fund	10,000,000.00		
Silver reserve fund	5,500,000.00		
Marine insurance account	250,000.00		
Notes in circulation:—			
Authorized issue against securities deposited with the Crown Agents for the Colonies	10,000,000.00		
Additional issue authorized by Hongkong Ordinance No. 19 of 1900, against coin lodged with the Hongkong Government	3,118,153.00		
	13,118,153.00		
Current account:—			
Silver	74,688,761.18		
Gold, £2,108,271.17s. 2d. =	25,132,124.77		
	99,820,885.95		
Fixed deposits:—			
Silver	44,758,114.56		
Gold, £1,481,456.12s. 4d. =	53,434,925.21		
	98,193,039.80		
Bills payable (including drafts on London bankers and short-sight drawings on London office against bills receivable and bullion shipments)	12,273,675.78		
Profit and loss account	3,590,683.17		
Liability on bills of exchange re-discounted, £6,256,838.12s. 6d. of which up to this date £1,471,496 have run off	\$252,746,415.70		

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Cash	33,143,734.24		
Coin lodged with the Hongkong Government against note circulation in excess of \$10,000,000	5,500,000.00		
Bullion in hand and in transit	3,974,550.63		
Indian Government rupee paper	2,207,901.65		
Consols, Colonial and other securities	9,960,808.75		
Sterling reserve fund investments, viz.:—			
£50,000 2½ per cent. Consols lodged with the Bank of England as a special London reserve, at 4½, £25,000	\$1,900,000.00		
£267,500 2½ per cent. Consols, £255,000 2½ per cent. national war loan at 90, £47,500	1,702,500.00		
£357,000 other sterling securities standing in the books at £339,750	3,397,500.00		
	\$10,000,000.00		
Bills discounted, loans and credits	96,692,383.43		
Bills receivable	90,555,865.48		
Bank premises	1,311,142.51		
	\$252,746,415.70		

GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

30th June, 1903

Dr.		\$	c.
To amounts written off:—			
Remuneration to directors	\$15,000.00		
To dividend account:—			
£1.10s. per share on 80,000 shares =	533,333.33		
£120,000 at 4/6			
To dividend adjustment account:—			
Difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend is declared, and 1/8, the rate of the day	\$908,666.67		
To transfer to silver reserve fund	500,000.00		
To transfer to bank premises account	200,000.00		
To balance forward to next half-year	\$3,590,683.17		

Cr.		\$	c.
By balance of undivided profits, 31st December, 1902	\$1,435,472.73		
By amount of net profits for the six months ending 30th June, 1903, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due	2,155,210.44		
	\$3,590,683.17		

STERLING RESERVE FUND.

To balance	\$10,000,000.00
By balance 31st December, 1902	\$10,000,000.00
(invested in sterling securities)	

SILVER RESERVE FUND.

To balance	\$5,500,000.00
By balance 31st December, 1902	\$5,500,000.00
By transfer from profit and loss account	\$6,000,000.00

ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE CONVERSAZIONE.

The annual function of the Royal Colonial Institute—the thirtieth of the series—was again held at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, on the 21st June. The great Central Hall and galleries and the Bird Gallery were thrown open to the large throng of guests present; these numbered fully 2,000 and formed an interesting assembly of members from all parts of the Empire—Nigeria not omitted. Sir Frederick Young received the guests and was assisted and supported by, among others, Lord Brassey, Field Marshal Sir Henry Norman, Lord Jersey, General Sir Bevan Edwards, and other members of the Council. Among those present were Admiral Sir N. Bowden Smith, General Sir Bevan Edwards, General Sir Henry Croft, Sir James Garrick, Sir Montague Nelson, Sir Montagu Ommamney, Sir C. Clement Smith, Sir Charles Stirling, General C. W. Robinson, Mr. Fred. Dutton, Mr. Thomas E. Fuller, Mr. S. Vaughan Morgan, Dr. A. P. Miller, and the Hon. John Tudhope (Councillors), Sir John, Lady, and Miss Bramston, Sir Frederic Hodgson (Governor of Barbados) and Lady and Miss Hodgson, Sir David Wilson (late Governor of British Honduras) and Lady and Miss Kathleen Wilson, Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Admiral the Hon. Sir E. R. and Lady Fremantle, Lady and Miss Norman, Sir John and Lady Cockburn, Sir Horace and Lady Tozer, Sir John, Lady, and Miss Buchanan, Sir Frederick Darley (Lieut. Governor of New South Wales) and Lady and Miss Darley, Sir Lepel Griffin, Sir Henry and Lady Maice, Lady Maxwell, Lady Hamilton, Lady Scratchley, Lieut. Colonel Sir Carzon and Lady Wyllie, Sara Lady Samuel, Sir John Taylor, Lady Knightley of Fawsley, Sir Edward and Lady Samuel, Lady and Miss Garrick, Lady and the Misses Stirling of Glorat, Major-General Sir George and Lady French, Sir E. Nool and Lady Walker, Sir James Hayes Sadler, Sir Walter Buller, and the Hon. Alfred Dobson. From Hongkong there were Dr. and Mrs. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. St. John Hancock, and Mr. Ernest Coxon; Lady Fielding Clarke and Mr. Osbert Chadwick, C.M.G., were also present. Excellent selections of instrumental music were rendered by the string band of the Royal Artillery, under Cavaliere L. Zaverthal, in the Central Hall, and by the string band of the Royal Marines (Portsmouth Division), which accompanied the King on his recent tour on the Mediterranean under Lieut. George Miller, in the Bird Gallery.

Nothing has been heard of the robbers who stole goods to the value of 17,000 yen from the Osaka Exhibition, and now another robbery of gold and silver nuggets, valued at 6,000 yen, from the Formosa Building, is reported.

The *Japan Advertiser* reports that Mr. A. C. Hutton Potts, of Yokohama, met with a painful accident while in his sickbed on the afternoon of the 14th ult. The axle of the rocking-breaking suddenly, Mr. Potts was thrown heavily against the iron balustrade of a bridge which he was crossing, with the result that an arm was badly bruised, the injury necessitating confinement to his bed for a few days.

POLICE COURT.

Monday, 27th July.

DARING THEFT.

On Sunday night about half-past nine o'clock a Frenchman named Achille Chemin was walking up Battery Pathway when his watch and chain were snatched by one of two Chinamen who made a dart at him from the side of the road. Mr. Chemin wore his chain on the outside of his jacket, and it was therefore an easy task for the rascals to catch hold of it. They ran off in different directions, one running up the hill and the other down. Mr. Chemin set off in pursuit of the former, and his cries attracted the attention of a Portuguese gentleman, who stopped the fleeing thief as he came panting along. On the way to the Central Police Station they passed the spot where the larceny had been committed, and here the watch, which had fallen on the ground and been allowed to lie there, was picked up, the chain was in the possession of the second of the two thieves, and has not been recovered, the scoundrel being still at liberty.

His accomplice was charged with larceny from the person and convicted; his sentence was a fully-merited and exemplary one—three hours' exposure in the stocks at the place where the offence was committed, twelve months' hard labour, and seven days' solitary confinement during the last week of the sentence. The first part of the punishment was carried out immediately, and the spectacle attracted large crowds of curious Chinese upon the lawless one, among whom, as well as upon the culprit himself, it is to be hoped the lesson will not be lost.

A POINT OF LAW—OR FACT?

A few days ago a fortune-teller at West Point had an interview with a young girl, upon whose superstitions she is alleged to have so successfully worked as to extract from her two dollars to keep evil spirits away; the penalty of non-payment of the money was death at sunset the same day. Full of the mysterious dread imparted by the incident, the girl on arriving at her mother's house in Kowloon City told her parent of the awful fate she had so narrowly escaped, and received the practical advice to go and tell the police. This the girl eventually did, with the result that the fortune-teller was arrested by Inspector McNab on a charge of obtaining money by false pretences.

Mr. O. D. Thomson, solicitor, defended, and submitted that as a fact the accused was no guilty of the offence alleged against her.

His Worship contended that the defendant was guilty in that she obtained the money by professing ability to ward off evil spirits.

Mr. Thomson—But how do we know that she does not possess that ability?

His Worship did not pursue this line of argument, but granted a remand until to-day at 2.15 p.m.

CREATING A DISTURBANCE.

On the complaint of P. C. 23 Blown, of the Water Police, six cargo-boat owners were fined \$10 each for being ashore at Tsimsatsui and working cargo between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.

COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

On Saturday last a native entered the cabin of the chief officer of the United States transport *Ingalls*, in dock at Kowloon, and stole a gold watch and chain and two trinkets—one half-a-sovereign and the other a gold cash—of the total value of \$500. He got clear away, but came to grief when he attempted to pawn his ill-gotten gains. The trinkets he had already converted into ready money, and he had the pawn-tickets in his pocket when he walked into another shop and passed the watch over the counter with the remark, "How much?" The pawnbroker immediately suspected his customer, and called in a passing *lukong*, who had a stern chase after the already decamping thief, but caught him at last. When searched at the Police Station he was found to be wearing the stolen chain.

His Worship convicted the accused and committed him for trial at the next Criminal Sessions.

CRUELTY TO A PONY.

The case in which a mafoo at the Chung Wa stables, Wongsheichong, was charged with cruelty to a pony, under circumstances already narrated in these columns, came up again on remand. Mr. H. W. Looker, solicitor (Messrs. Deacon & Hastings), defended.

After one of the proprietors of the stables had given evidence, the accountant there was called and deposed that the defendant was in charge of the pony and gharry on the day when the alleged acts of cruelty were committed.

He was followed in the witness-box by the head mafoo, who declared that he saw the defendant take part in the levering of the pony by means of bamboos and in the subsequent slinging-up of the animal to a tree, where it hung for three-quarters of an hour. The defendant, he added, was present throughout all the proceedings.

After hearing Mr. Looker, who called for the defence one of the Chinese passengers in the gharry.

His Worship found the defendant guilty of cruel ill-usage and fined him \$50, or in default two months' hard labour. The fine was paid.

An appeal may be lodged.

Tuesday, 28th July.

CONSTABLE SENT TO PRISON.

One night recently an Indian constable on duty at Taikoktsui accosted a Chinese boy and asked him for a cigarette. The boy said he had none, but the constable did not believe him and searched his pockets. He found 33 cents, five cents of which he kept to buy cigarettes, and handed back the remaining 33 cents. The boy objected to being thus robbed, and was promptly knocked down by the Indian. He ran away, and when he got home told his master what had happened. A report was subsequently made to Inspector Macdonald at Yaumati Police Station, and that officer instituted enquiries that ended in the constable being charged with larceny from the person and also with assault. He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. E. J. Grist, solicitor (Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist).

The evidence in support of the charge of larceny was weak, and the charge was withdrawn by the complainant; on the second charge the accused was sentenced to one month's hard labour.

"CHIN-CHIN JOSS."

His Worship heard the arguments of Mr. O. D. Thomson, solicitor, in the case in which a Chinese woman was charged with obtaining by false pretences the sum of two dollars from a girl whose death she foretold as the penalty of non-payment.

The girl stated in evidence that the defendant told her she would meet a "hanging-by-the-neck" devil, and this his Worship took to mean a suicidal devil—a devil that would prompt the girl to commit suicide. That devil the defendant said she would drive out, and by such profession of ability to work magic she played on the superstitions of the girl and obtained from her the sum of two dollars.

Mr. Thomson contended that the defendant hardly professed the power of a magician; she simply meant that she would "chin-chin joss," and that the effect of her prayers would be the driving out or keeping off of the particular devil in question.

His Worship found the defendant guilty as charged, and sentenced her to one month's hard labour, without the option of a fine.

BRIBERY CHARGE.

The case of N. A. Johannsen, overseer of the Central Market, who was charged with accepting a bribe of \$10 from certain stallholders in the market to influence his conduct as a public servant, was proceeded with.

The case for the prosecution being completed, Mr. Slade, who called no witnesses, addressed his Worship on behalf of the accused. He submitted that the charge against the defendant had not been substantiated, and that the evidence for the prosecution could not be relied upon. The whole story of the three witnesses called by the Crown was a pure concoction; the very unanimity of the men pointed to that. There was a very strong reason to get Johannsen out of the Central Market; he was one of the officials enforcing the measures adopted in con-

sequence of the outbreak of plague amongst fowls, and it was to the interest of the witnesses and of the guild they represented to have him removed. But beyond all that, was it likely that if a man wanted to take a bribe he was going to manufacture evidence against himself by accepting it in the presence of witnesses? The whole thing was most improbable, concluded Mr. Slade, and he asked his Worship to discharge the accused.

His Worship was of opinion that the prosecution had failed to prove their case with sufficient certainty, and he discharged the defendant.

THE CURRENCY OF INDO-CHINA.

The report of the Inter-Ministerial Committee appointed in Paris to consider the question of the currency in French Indo-China has not yet been made public, though it is known, says the *L. & O. Express*, that it has been drawn up. Sufficient seems to have leaked out, however, to give an indication of what has been suggested, and this shows that the statement we have previously made is the correct one. It is proposed to get rid of the Mexican dollar as rapidly as possible, and to have the commercial dollar as sole legal tender. Sufficient of the latter dollars would be provided with the least delay to suffice for the wants now served by both classes of dollars. In this being achieved the Mexican would be demonetised. Thereafter a similar course to what has been pursued in India, since the closing of the mints in 1893, would be adopted, and the commercial dollar worked up to 2.50 francs (it is said) by the starvation process. This figure would be in consonance with the proposed rate for the dollar in the Straits Settlements, and for such other parts of the Far East as have carried out the process of conversion, or are engaged in doing so at present. The scheme is, of course, as feasible as that being put in force in the Straits, but it has the prior advantage that there is a coin ready at hand to be established.

HONGKONG.

The City Hall Library and Museum were visited last week by 221 non-Chinese and 79 Chinese and by 66 non-Chinese and 1,953 Chinese respectively.

A couple of Filipino barbers in Messrs. Campbell, Moore & Co.'s had a set-to in the shop on Wednesday, and were fined \$5 at the Magistracy on Thursday for disorderly conduct.

Captain J. B. Arbuthnot, A.D.C. to the Governor, and Mrs. Arbuthnot sailed for Japan at daylight on the 31st ult., and after a month's holiday there will proceed to England via the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Mr. L. d'Almada e Castro, the popular Acting First Clerk of the Supreme Court, goes to the firm of Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton, solicitor, next month, and will be succeeded by Mr. A. B. Suffad, Acting Second Clerk of the Court.

Among those "called" to the Bar from the Middle Temple on the 25th June was Mr. R. E. Bellios, of Hongkong; and Mr. J. W. Jones, Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court of Hongkong, was "called" at the same time as a member of Gray's Inn.

A British passenger from Borneo by the German steamer *Borneo* reported to the police on Wednesday that he had been robbed of \$200 on board the vessel during the passage to Hongkong. The act, he states, was committed one night whilst he lay asleep on deck, where he had gone on account of the heat.

Only one of the nine lots of lands in Kowloon advertised to be sold by Mr. Geo. P. Lammert in his auction rooms, Duddell Street, on the 28th ult., found a purchaser. That was Lot 6, and the price fetched was 95 cents a foot. The other lots were withdrawn on account of the low bidding.

Mr. William Hewat, chief officer of the s.s. *Benlarig*, died in the Government Civil Hospital on Tuesday after a month's illness and was buried at Happy Valley. He was a native of Kilmalcolm, Scotland, and had been mate of the *Benlarig* for four years. His death was the result of an abscess on the liver.

Among the passengers who arrived by the *s.s. Gaelic* on the 25th ult. was Dr. F. H. Kew, who has just completed a successful course of dentistry study in America. He will join in practice with his brother, Mr. C. F. Kew. Dr. Kew was accompanied by his wife. It will be remembered that Dr. Kew was a fine goal-keeper for the H.K. C. some years ago.

In addition to the names in the Birthday Honour List already reported, we notice that of Dr. Patrick Manson, I.L.D., M.D., F.R.S., C.M.G., Medical Adviser to the Colonial Office, who was an old hand in Formosa, Amoy, and Hongkong before he settled down at home. He receives the honour of K.C.M.G. for special services in connection with tropical diseases.

At the Magistracy on Thursday three Chinese workmen were each fined \$20 and bound over in the sum of \$10 for blasting rock during prohibited hours at Mount Kellet without taking proper precautions to ensure the safety of the operations. Only on Wednesday a Chinese house-boy at the Peak escaped grave injury by the merest chance through his careless way of working. A large stone projected into the air fell on his opened umbrella, and, just missing his head, inflicted an ugly gash on the thigh. His wound was dressed at the police station, where a summons against the offending parties was taken out.

We are informed that there was a meeting on the 29th ult. of the members of the Chinese Commercial Union—Mr. Fung Wa Chun presiding over an attendance of about thirty—to discuss what action should be taken in view of the enforcement of the provisions of the new Building Ordinance regarding the abolition of windowless cubicles in domestic houses, and to-day a petition from the Chinese inhabitants in No. 5 Health District will be forwarded to the Government asking for permission to re-erect cubicles already demolished by the sanitary authorities. Some days ago the ten Merchant Guilds of Hongkong also petitioned the Government to withdraw the new provisions relating to the abolition of cubicles in existing buildings.

The mail brings news of the death of Mr. Jacob Phillips, of Birmingham, who came out to the East after the close of the first war with China. In the short space of eight years he established at Hongkong the firm of Phillips, Moore & Co., with branches at Shanghai, Tientsin, and Manila. Mr. Phillips returned to England in 1851 and for seventeen years, the obituary notices state, he carried on a large trade with China. In the public life of Birmingham he was a conspicuous citizen and was a generous supporter of the local charities. Had he lived till November Mr. Phillips would have reached his hundredth birthday. In extreme old age, it is stated, he manifested extraordinary powers, and his memory was both prodigious and accurate. Though his eyesight failed a year ago, the newspapers were read to him daily as well as all the sterling literature of the day. Mr. Phillips had never married.

We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. W. Robertson, assistant engineer of the Fire Brigade, at No. 5 Police Station, Queen's Road Central, on the 25th ult. The end came very suddenly. Mr. Robertson, a hale, hearty man of 34, was alive and well on Saturday afternoon; at about nine o'clock in the evening he was found lying in bed in an unconscious condition, breathing stertorously and showing every symptom of heat apoplexy. Assistance was immediately summoned and an ambulance procured, but before hospital was reached Mr. Robertson was dead, a victim to one of the hottest days, if not the hottest day, that the Colony has experienced this year. He was a native of Banffshire and unmarried, and had been 13 years in the Colony. The funeral took place at Happy Valley on the 26th ult., and was attended by representatives of every rank in the Police Force and Fire Brigade. The wreath-covered coffin was followed by, amongst others, Captain Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, Assistant Superintendent of Police; Mr. D. MacDonald, Engineer of the Fire Brigade; Chief Inspector Baker, Inspectors Robertson, MacDonald, Ford, Collett, Warnock, Smith, Withers, Gourlay, and numerous other members of the Force from almost every neighbouring and outlying station in the Colony.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the H.K. and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., will be held in the Co.'s office, on the 24th inst., at noon.

Mr. George Forster, one of America's ablest judges, who arrived here on Tuesday by the *Empress of China* from Japan, where he was holidaying, occupied a seat on the Bench at the Magistracy Wednesday beside Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, and displayed much interest in the proceedings of the Court.

It is with much satisfaction we note at last preparations for action on the side of the Law Courts. The new contractor is evidently not going to lose time in commencing. He is busily erecting hoardings round the scene of operations, and has even commenced bringing materials. Let us hope that a heavy time penalty may keep him up to the mark all through his contract.

We notice in the *Times* the announcement that Lord Meath has received a letter from Sir Henry Blake, Governor of Hongkong, informing him that his suggestion as to an "Empire Day" has been adopted, and that 25th May will in due course be added to the list of public holidays at present settled by Ordinance. At the Legislative Council meeting to-morrow a bill entitled "An Ordinance to set apart a holiday to be known as 'Victoria Day' in loving remembrance of Her Most Gracious Majesty the late Queen Victoria," will be read.

MISCELLANEOUS.

H.E. Sheng Kung Pao after inspecting the electric light plant at the Russo-Chinese Bank at Shanghai placed an order with Mr. Darrig, the *Shanghai Mercury* says, for electric-light installations for both Imperial Palaces at Peking, amounting to about one and a half lac, these plants being a present to Her Majesty the Empress.

According to the *Jiji*, the United States naval authorities have decided to condemn the old gunboat *Monocacy*, now lying at Taku, and to dispose of her. This vessel first came out to the Far East in 1865, two years after she was built, and has served the U.S. Government for a period of over forty years. Lately she has been used as a guard-boat on the Peiho river.

In the annual prize-firing at Weihaiwei, the *Cressy* fired 28 rounds from 9.2-inch guns, and made 13 hits. From the 6-inch guns 129 rounds were fired and 69 hits made. The *Albion* from 12-inch guns fired 26 rounds and scored 18 hits, and from the 6-inch guns 149 rounds and 95 hits. Comparing the *Albion's* results with those of last year she has more than trebled the hits from the 12-inch and doubled the hits from the 6-inch guns.

Notable in the annual prize-firing of the cruiser *Blenheim*, writes a correspondent on the China station to the *Naval and Military Record*, was the firing of the after 9.2 gun, which was fired by Leading Seaman Gould. In six minutes he fired seven rounds and scored seven hits, thus holding the world's record for guns not fitted with telescopic sights. The six-inch guns also distinguished themselves by firing twelve rounds in two minutes, and each gun made eleven hits. Great credit is due to the gunnery officer and his staff for this splendid performance.

A Blue-book giving an account of the work performed by the surveying branch of the British Navy in 1902, records that in the China seas the *Rambler*, under Captain M. H. Smyth, continued the survey of the East Lamma Channel, near Hongkong, completing this on a scale of six inches to the mile. The ship was next engaged off Taku for two to three months, afterwards sounding in the Yellow Sea. The crew enjoyed an eight weeks' stay in Yokohama while charts were being drawn. On the way back to Hongkong Captain Smyth found a new rock in the Sanpwan Pass, which is much frequented by coasting steamers. Some sounding was also done off Amoy, with useful results. On the same station Lieut.-Commander E. C. Hardy assumed command of the *Waterwitch* and carried out surveys in Miao Bay and at Weihaiwei—our discredited "secondary" base. Two lieutenants of this ship were invalided home, which retarded the surveys.

It is not a pleasant fact to have to note, says the *L. & C. Review*, nor are there any comforting reflections to be gained from the fact, that in the annual tea report of Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson there is hardly a word devoted to China tea. Poor China! It is almost ignored, and certainly does not receive any encouragement.

A special correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury*, writing from Manila on the 10th ult., tells of the development of a movement calculated to add to the production of soldiers of fortune. In the last month, says the writer, upward of 200 men, mainly non-commissioned officers or privates, whose terms of military service have run out or who could obtain discharges by other means have gone to China under engagement for military work. Their promised pay is \$200 gold per month, a multiplication by ten or more for men of that class in the American army, with assurance of service so long as they may prove valuable to their employers, and with prospect of increase of pay. No instance is reported in which this tempting bait has been refused. There is no office to which men may go to offer themselves as recruits for this service. The movement is engagingly mysterious. Its promoters take no chances either of being over-run with undesirable applicants or of bringing themselves under the eye of Chinese consular or other authority; they evidently mark out the men whom they want and whom they know to be willing to accept their terms.

The British Consul at Copenhagen, in his report on the trade of Denmark for 1902, remarks that the business carried on by the enterprising East Asiatic Company during 1902 was most satisfactory, and in spite of low freights, which appear to have been universal, the shareholders have received 8 per cent., much the same as in former years. The Company say that trade in China has not improved as much as was expected. The decreasing value of silver and the want of a gold standard have been much felt, and the absence of these has caused fluctuations, etc., in the whole of the East Asiatic market. The trade in the various woods, especially teak, has been very satisfactory, and the Company's sales in Europe, America, India, China, and Japan are continuously increasing. During 1902 the Company has launched two small steamers for the coasting trade in the Far East, and two large passenger and freight steamers, *Prince Valdemar* and *Princess Marie*, of 6,000 tons each. In these four steamers liquid fuel has been used for bunkers, and it is said to have taken up less space, thereby allowing more cargo room. They have also begun trading operations in South Africa with *s.s. Siam* and some chartered steamers, and they hope that a profitable business may be worked up in time.

Respecting new railways in French Indo-China, a despatch has been received at the British Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Pakhoi, reporting that the construction of the network of railways in Indo-China, for which the loan of £8,000,000 was voted in 1898 by the French Chamber, is making good progress, but has scarcely yet advanced sufficiently to be of any great benefit to trade generally, although the movement of goods in two or three districts has, no doubt, been considerably facilitated. The line from Hanoi to Vietry is finished, but at the time of writing was not yet formally open to traffic owing to an accident to the bridge at that place. The section to Yenbay (about 80 kilom.) was expected to be opened in June. The route selected from Leokay to Yunnan-fu has turned out to be impracticable, and the line will now pass some distance from Mengtzu, to which a branch will, however, be made. The Langson line has been carried right up to the frontier at Nankuan, but trains only run to Dongdang, 34 kilom. distant. The section from Nankuan to Thanhhoa will be finished this year, and the continuation to Vinh shortly afterwards. The section from Saigon to Bienhoa is already open. There is a short branch from Tien to the busy river port Dapcu, one of 2 kilom. from Namdinh to its port, one of 5 kilom. from Vinh to its port Benthuy, one from the Nienhoa coal mines to Tourance, and one for portage purposes across the Iule of Klone, on the Mekong, where navigation is obstructed by rapids.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1903-1904	1902-03
Shanghai	—	—
Amoy and Formosa	—	—
Foochow	1,010,019	1,493,509
	1,010,019	1,493,509

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1901-2	1900-1
Shanghai	—	—
Amoy and Formosa	—	—
Foochow	5,917,580	6,206,300
Canton	—	—
	5,917,580	6,206,300

SILK.

Canton, 30th July.—Exports.—Silk.—Tasties and Re-reels.—There are no transactions to record in these sorts. Filatures.—At the lower level of prices reported in our last, quite a fair business developed during the earlier part of the fortnight on the basis of \$1,000 for Petiteler and Best 2e Ordre 9/11, \$930 940 for Best 2e Ordre 10/12, \$925 for Mac Kee 11/13, \$840 for Yee Woo Cheong 18/22. Sales of Best 3e Ordre were effected at \$830 for 11/13, 13/15 and \$785 for 14/18. A sudden rise in Exchange, amounting to about 3 per cent. since the 9th inst., has, however, effectually blocked further transactions. Dealers approximately uphold values, awaiting developments in Exchange, but in the absence of business, closing quotations are more or less nominal with a weakish tendency. Short-reels.—A little movement took place in these, since checked also by the advance in Exchange. Some 7,800 bales found buyers on the basis of \$330 for Kwong Shan Cheong, Hau King Lon 14/16, \$905 for Quang Wo Hing, Kum King Cheong, \$39 for Chung Sun Hang, Kwong Lun Hing and \$465 for King Wo Cheong, Yee Lun Cheong, etc. Waste Silk.—Prices are upheld very firmly in the producing districts by the smallness of supply. Buyers and sellers consequently remain apart, with business practically at a standstill.

CAMPHOR.

Hongkong, 31st July.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

Hongkong 31st July.—The prices are the same as when last reported.

Sheklong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.45 to \$8.50 per.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.75 to 7.80 "
Sheklong, No. 1, Brown.....	5.15 to 5.20 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.00 to 5.05 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.35 to 8.40 "
Do. " 1, White.....	7.60 to 7.65 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.05 to 5.10 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	4.90 to 4.95 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.70 to 12.75 "
Sheklong	10.85 to 10.90 "

RICE.

Hongkong 31st July.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.95 to 4.00
Round, Good quality.....	5.30 to 5.35
Long	5.50 to 5.55
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	4.10 to 4.15
Garden. " No. 1	4.65 to 4.70
White.	5.45 to 5.50
Fine Cargo	5.60 to 5.65

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per M. M. steamer *Polynesia*, sailed on 28th July. For Marseilles:—145 bales raw silk, 100 waste silk, 76 bales hair, 8 cases silks, 9 cases tea, 10 cases furniture, 11 cases bird-feathers. For Lyons:—44 bales raw silk. For Milan:—30 bales raw silk, 25 bales cocoons.

COTTON.

Hongkong 31st July.—Small business in superior grade, market quiet. Stock about 1,500 bales.

Bombay	23.50 to 24.50	per cwt
Bengal (New), Rangoon	24.50 to 27.50	"
and Dacca	—	"
Shanghai and Japanese	22.50 to 30.00	"
Tungchow and Ningpo	20.50 to 30.00	"

Sale:—225 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Edaljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 31st July.—The firmness assumed by holders alluded to in last report, was not of long duration, as shortly after the departure of the Mail a disposition was shown to again meet dealers and during the interval close upon 6,000 bales, both prompt and forward delivery, have been settled, particulars of which are noted below. The principal factor at work has been a further advance in exchange. Large importers have been more in evidence and although Rupees show only a rise of two points, rates have been run down in special instances as low as \$5 per bale and are very weak at the close. The last two days there has been a pause in the market as sellers having somewhat eased their stock are less eager to sell while buyers having picked out the most desirable spinnings are indifferent. We close dull and depressed.

Local Manufacture.—The local Mill has lowered its prices \$1 to \$2 per bale, but so far no increased demand has been experienced, and the business of the interval comprise 100 bales 10s. at \$102, and 150 bales 12s. at 106, close weak.

Japanese Yarn:—A somewhat small enquiry for these threads has resulted in the sale of 400 bales Miike 20s. at \$13 and 50 bales Settsu 20s. at \$132. Close unsteady.

Raw Cotton:—Trifling sales have taken place, as dealers are reluctant to commit themselves in view of the proximity of the new crop and the collapse in the American market. Sales reported are 180 Bengal at from \$25 to \$26, market closing 9th inst. Unsold stock about 70 bales. China kinds continue neglected. Quotations are \$20 to \$26 Indian and \$26 to \$29 Chinese.

Exchange on India has fluctuated slightly and closes to-day at Rs. 131 for T.T. and Rs. 131½ for Post. On Shanghai 72½ and on Yokohama 85½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 18th inst., viz:—

Indian:—Owing to the Yangtze floods, business has been somewhat curtailed for the River Port, but Szechuen has been very active and sales aggregate 7,130 bales, comprising 3,278 No. 10s, 425 bales No. 12s, 250 bales No. 14s, 1,000 bales No. 16s, and 2,177 bales No. 20s. Estimated unsold stock about 35,000 bales.

Japanese:—Total sales 2,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 89 to 96 for No. 16s. and Tls. 95 to 100 for No. 20s., rates showing an advance of Tls. 1 to 1½ and market closing firm.

Local:—Prices keep steady; sales amounting to 4,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 84.40 for No. 10s, Tls. 80 to 92 for 12s, Tls. 88 to 92½ for 14s, and Tls. 93 to 94 for 16s, closing strong.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Hongkong, 2nd July.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	111.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings 6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.50 to 2.80
8.4 lbs.	3.50 to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.	4.30 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.90 to 3.25
58 to 60	3.50 to 4.00
61 to 66	4.25 to 5.75
Fine	6.00 to 8.50
Book-folds	5.00 to 8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.85 to 1.75
T-cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y	2.30 to 2.80
7lbs. (32 in.)	2.50 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 in.) Mexs.	2.50 to 3.00
7lbs. (32 in.)	3.10 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	3.30 to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds. 13½ to 14 lbs.	4.75 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS.—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.70 to 6.00
Brocades—Dyed	— to —

DAMASKS.—

	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.60 to 0.15
Velvets—Black, 22 in	0.27 to 0.65
Velveteens—18 in.	0.17½ to 0.23

	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.25 to 5.00

V. OLLENS.—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.75 to 2.25
Habit, Med., and Broad cloths	1.25 to 3.00
	per piece
Long-Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.95 to 9.75
Assorted	7.10 to 9.00
Camlets—Assorted	12.50 to 33.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches	12.50 to 21.00
Assorted	—
Orleans—Plain	9.50 to —
	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 1.75
Fine quality	1.00 to 2.50
	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.50 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.55 to —
Swedish Bar	4.55 to —
Small Round Rod	4.50 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.10 to —
Wire, 16-25	10.00 to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.20 to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.10 to —
Australian	8.30 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	41.50 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	41.50 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	41.50 to —
Composition Nails	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	39.00 to —
Tin	77.50 to —

	box. per
Tin-Plates	7.40 to —
	per cwt. cas
Steel ½ to 1	6.75 to —
	per picul
Quicksilver	173.50 to —
	per box
Window Glass	5.00 to —

SHANGHAI, July 24th (from Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—Very little business has been done during the past week and what there has been is purely of a retail nature and cannot be said to make a market. The erratic movement of exchange, the tightness of money in the Native market and the uncertainty as to the future both as regards the price of Cotton and the political situation in Manchuria, all tend to keep the market dull and dealers who a few weeks ago appeared anxious to pick up all the cheap lots they could, do not now show the slightest wish to buy. Clearances have been poor, but as we hear that the stringency in the money market has been somewhat relieved by the recent arrival of a fair amount of specie some improvement ought to take place, especially if the expected further arrival of specie becomes a fact. With an easier money market we should doubtless see more inclination to buy. The Szechuen market is said to have shown further improvement, but as far as we hear the dealers have not yet begun to replenish their stocks. It is said the merchants are doing very well with their spring purchases. There has been a little buying for the River Ports, the purchases for the most part consisting of Indian Yarn. For Tientsin and Newchwang we do not hear of any business having been done. American Cotton has risen again, the latest quotation for Mid Orleans being 6.40d. with the Liverpool market quiet. Egyptian Cotton is easier and is now quoted 8½d. The Manchester market is reported steady and is inclined to be easier, but prices are not yet nearly low enough to allow of business. Here and there certain manufacturers who have run into stock are quoting lower prices in order to reduce their holdings, but we do not hear of many purchases having been made. The Native merchants and dealers here, and even some Importers, are very mistrustful of the future and we are not at all certain that even much lower quotations would tempt them to buy in quantity at present for their spring requirements.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 31st July.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/9
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9 ½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9 ½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/9 ½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9 ½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9 ½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	220
Credits 4 months' sight	224

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	179
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CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

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ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	131
Bank, on demand	131
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	131
Bank, on demand	131
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	73
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	85
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	105
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.45
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per taël	60.6
BAR SILVER, per oz.	25 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	43 1/2

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 31st July, 1903.—The market continues abnormally dull, and while rates are fairly well maintained, business is very restricted. The monthly settlements to-day have been satisfactory only negotiated, but until money is easier no improvement in the market can fairly be looked for.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai remain quiet but steady at \$620 with small sales for cash, and it is apparently only the difficulty of finance which prevents a large demand for the stock at present rates. Shares could be placed forward plus at 1/8 per cent. per annum interest but holders ask 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. Nationals are in demand at \$27, but shares are scarce and only very small sales have taken place.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions remain unchanged with a small business at \$500. China Traders have found buyers at \$62 and 1/4 cent. \$61, closing steady at the latter rate. Yangtze are somewhat firmer with probable buyers at \$185. Cantons have been negotiated at \$181 closing steady to strong at that rate.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have ruled quiet with small sales at \$27 1/2. Chinas have found further small buyers at \$87 and \$88, but close with sellers at the latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao after sales at \$33 1/2 have been done at \$38 1/2, market closing with sellers at that rate. Douglases have been taken off the market at \$40 1/2 and \$41, closing with buyers at \$40 1/2. Shell Transports have changed hands at 23 1/2 and 24, closing at 24 1/2 sellers. Star Ferries remain unchanged with no business to report. Indes have ruled weak with little or no business at \$9 1/2, closing with probable sellers under that rate.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars: a small demand for the settlement temporarily strengthened the market, and a few lots changed hands at \$93 and \$94; at time of closing however, the market is quieter with probable sellers at \$95. On time shares changed hands for August at \$95 and November at \$93, forward sellers ruling the market at time of closing. Luzons are still enquired for at \$1 1/2 without leading to business.

MINING.—Punjams have changed hands in fair lots at \$2 and more shares could be placed at that rate. Raubs unchanged and without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks under the influence of settlements have declined to \$213, after small sales during the week at \$15. Kowloon Wharves continue in demand at \$88 without finding any sellers. New Amoy Docks unchanged.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands could be placed in small quantities at \$155 ex int-rim div. paid on the 28th inst. Hotels after sales at \$150 close in demand at that rate. West Point remains without business. Humphreys Estates have been placed at \$12.5, \$12.15 and \$12.

COTTON MILLS.—No change or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green I-lands have found further buyers and continue in demand at \$24. China Borneos have been placed at \$10 and

Watsons at \$14 1/2. No further business to report under this heading.

MEMOS.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., ordinary half-yearly meeting on 4th August. Wm. Powell, Limited, ordinary yearly meeting on 5th August; transfer books close to-day. Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, ordinary half-yearly meeting on 15th August; transfer books close 1st August. United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Limited, ordinary yearly meeting on 5th August. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Limited, ordinary half-yearly meeting on 24th August; transfer books close on 10th August.

Closing quotations are as follows:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$165, sales & sell. (London, £84. 10s.)
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$27, buyers
Found. Shares	21	\$10
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$6
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$10, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$13, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.		\$20 \$6 1/2
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.75, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$94, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$20, buyers
Philippine Tobacco Trust, Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$18
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 36 sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 10, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 100.
Hongkong	\$100	\$15, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47 1/2
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$24, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12 60, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$82 1/2
Hk. Steam Water Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$14 1/2 buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$150, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$250, ex div. buy.
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$88, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$14 1/2
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$213
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$180, sales & buy.
China Fire	\$20	\$87
China Traders'	\$25	\$61
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$327 1/2
North China	\$25	Tls. 230
Straits	\$20	\$1, nominal
Union	\$100	\$500, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$135
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$55, ex div., buy.
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12, s. lers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$10	\$8, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$50 1/2, ex div.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$6 0, sellers
Jebebu	\$5	\$1 1/2, sellers
Punjom	\$11	\$2, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$30 cents, buyers
Raubs	18 10	\$8 1/2, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$37 1/2, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$12 1/2, buyers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$1, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$21
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$41
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$38 1/2, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$94, sellers
Shel Transport and Trading Co.	\$1	\$1. 4. 0, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$27, buyers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 158, sellers
Tehran Planting Co.	\$5	nominal
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$225, buyers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$23, buyers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14 1/2, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 24th July (from Messrs. J. P. Bissac & Co.'s Report). Business for the week under review has been quieter, but rates in all stocks have been very steady, with a slight improvement in Langkats. Our money market is easier, and we expect to see an improvement in prices. BANKS.—H. and S. Banks.—No business is reported locally; the market is quoted in Hongkong at \$680 buyers; the latest London quotation is £63.15. Nationals continue in demand at \$28. MARINE INSURANCE.—Locally no business to report. Hongkong quotes sellers of Unions at \$500, and Traders at \$62, and Yangtzes at Tls. 85. Cantons at \$177 1/2 buyers. FIRE INSURANCE.—Chinas are wanted in the South at \$5 and Hongkongs at \$327 1/2. SHIPPING.—H. C. and M. Steam Boats.—Sales at \$38 1/2. Indo-Chinas.—The market for the stock both locally and in the South has ruled quiet during the week. Our market opened on the 17th with sales at Tls. 69/80 1/2 for the July Sett. and 68 for August. On the 20th July shares were placed at 68 1/2 and 69 to Hongkong. On the 21st cash and July shares were placed at 63, with 68 1/2 for July. On the 22nd cash shares were placed at 68 1/2. 67 1/2 and 69 July. On the 23rd cash shares were placed at 68 1/2, 69 and 70 for July. The market closes steady at 69. DOUGLASES.—Business at \$40. Tug and Lighter shares no business reported. DOCKS AND WHARVES.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd.—The market opened on the 17th with sales for cash at Tls. 16 1/2 ex div. and 160 July and August delivery, 16 1/2 October and 17 1/2 December. On the 20th cash shares were placed at 157 1/2 with sales at 160 and 157 1/2 July; 163 October and 167 1/2 December. On the 21st July shares were placed at 155. On the 22nd July shares changed hands at 157 1/2 with sales for December at 161. 23rd cash shares were placed at 156 1/2, with sales for July at 156 1/2 and 157 1/2; 162 September, 163 October, and November; 166 and 167 1/2 December. The market closes steady at 157 1/2. HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCKS.—Buyers at \$215. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves.—Sellers at Tls. 282 1/2. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves buyers at 788. SUGAR CO.'S.—In the South China Sugars are quoted nom. at \$93. MINING.—Kai-pings have been placed at Tls. 6.75. Weihaiwei Colds \$15. p.u. at \$15 1/2, and \$20. p.u. at \$21. LANDS.—No business reported in Shanghai. Hongkongs are wanted in the South at \$161. Humphreys are quoted nominal at \$12. INDUSTRIAL.—We have still to report no business in Cotton Stocks. Waterworks have changed hands at Tls. 425. Gas shares at Tls. 112 1/2. Majors at Tls. 40, and Ices at Tls. 20. Maatschappij & Co. in Langkats.—A fair business has been done in these. The market opened on the 17th with sales at Tls. 200 cash and 202 1/2. Sales for July at 200, 205/300 August. 300/305 September. On the 18th cash shares were placed at 202 1/2. On the 20th July shares for Settlement were placed at 202 1/2 and 205, and for September at 305 and October 312 1/2. On the 21st cash shares were placed at 207 1/2. For July Settlement at 205, September 310 305. On the 22nd July Settlement shares were placed at 20 1/2 200 with sales at 320. November, 23rd cash shares were placed at 200, and Settlement shares at 202 1/2 and 20 1/2. The Stock closes steady at 202 1/2. SUMATRAS.—Have been placed at Tls. 60. STORES & HOTELS.—Hall and Holtz have been placed at \$31. Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 16. MISCELLANEOUS.—Telephones have been placed at Tls. 69 and 68 and again at 69. DEBENTURES.—Land Debentures 6 per cent changed hands at Tls. 101, and Gas Debentures 6 per cent at Tls. 100.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Kintuck, Nestor, Stentor, Glauco, Sanuki Maru, Tydens, Hakata Maru.
FOR LONDON.—Coromandel, Ben'edi, Kintuck, Nestor, Stentor, Glauco, Sanuki Maru, Tydens, Merionethshire, Hakata Maru.
FOR LIVERPOOL.—Pingsuey, Diomed.
FOR MARSEILLES.—Kintuck, Nestor, Yarra, Stentor, Glauco, Sanuki Maru, Tydens, Hakata Maru.
FOR BREMEN.—Prinz Heinrich.
FOR HAMBURG AND HAMBURG.—Sithonia, Badenia, Konigsberg, Andalusia.
FOR ODESSA.—Edouard Barry.
FOR TRIESTE.—M. Bacquehem.
FOR NEW YORK.—Atalia, Saint Bede, Byron, Dries.
FOR PORTLAND (Or.).—Indrapura.
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Victoria, Igo Maru, Ningchow.
FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China, Athenian.
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Tianan, Kasaga Maru.
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Namsang.
FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Kagoshima Maru.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 31st July.—A fair amount of business has been transacted during the period under review, but rates show no improvement upon previous fixtures. From Saigon to this, 13 cents per picul; to Philippines, a number of boats have been fixed at from 24 to 29 cents per picul according to size and position, and no tonnage is wanted; to Japan, 31 cents last. From Java to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul offering for dry and 25 cents per picul wet sugar; to Japan, 37½ cents per picul and 40 cents per picul two ports has been paid. From Iloilo to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul. From Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul. From Moji to this, \$1.75 per ton; to Singapore, \$2.25 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Prince Albert—Norwegian steamer, 1,198 tons, sold for £1.75.

Chien-shan—British steamer, 1,282 tons, two ports north coast Java to 12 ports Japan, 37½ cents and 40 cents per picul.

Dapane—German steamer, 1,415 tons, Sourabaya to Hongkong, \$9,000 in full.

Themis—Norwegian steamer, 1,208 tons, Hankow to Swatow, Tls. 8,700 in full.

Hansa—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Moji to Saigon, \$2.70 per ton.

Conigsby—British steamer, 2,158 tons, Karatsu to Singapore, \$2.30 per ton.

Glehartney—British steamer, 1,944 tons, Moji to Karatsu or Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.15 per ton.

Else—German steamer, 903 tons, Hongkong to Chinkiang \$2.40 per ton.

Clara Jensen—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.65 per ton.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,184 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.65 per ton.

M. Struce—German steamer, 906 tons, Newchwang to Amoy, 21 cents per picul.

Bygdø—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, hence to Chefoo, Newchwang and back to Canton via Tientsin \$7,000 in full.

Kansu—British steamer, 1,143 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul (16,000 piculs).

Pansang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul (16,000 piculs).

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul (16,000 piculs).

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul.

Petrarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 24 cents per picul.

Nanyang—German steamer, 982 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.

Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.

Tailee—German steamer, 930 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 28 cents per picul.

Quangnam—French steamer, 710 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 29 cents per picul.

Else—German steamer, 903 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Sihan—British steamer, 847 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

July—ARRIVALS.

25, Athenian, British str., from Vancouver.
25, Kampot, French str., from Saigon.
25, Maria Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
26, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
26, Born o, German str., from Sandakan.
26, Guthrie, British str., from Swatow.
26, Polynesien, French str., from Shanghai.
26, Singan, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Tailee, German str., from Saigon.
26, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
26, Vengeance, British battleship, from home.
26, Verona, German str., from Amoy.
27, Empress of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
27, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
27, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
27, Empire, British str., from Sydney.
27, Kwangtsh, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
27, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
27, Namsang, British str., from Calcutta.
27, Perla, British str., from Cebu.
27, Rabi, British str., from Manila.
27, Sithonia, German str., from Hamburg.
27, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongkong.
27, Vale of Doon, British str., from Rajang.
27, Wurzburg, German str., from Shanghai.

27, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
27, Yunnan, British str., from Pasumian.
28, As rali-n, British str., from Kobe.
28, Cheangchow, British str., from Singapore.
28, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
28, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
28, Ichang, British str., from Canton.
28, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
28, Kinshiu Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
28, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
28, Pleiades, American str., from Tacoma.
28, Su'sang, British str., from Java.
28, Tientsin, British str., from Bombay.
28, U. dine, Norwegian str., from Cardiff.
29, Anna, Norwegian str., from Honcho Bay.
29, Banledi, British str., from Yokohama.
29, Chinkiang, British str., from Chinkiang.
29, Chiyo Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
29, Chuusang, British str., from Chefoo.
29, Crown of Arragon, Brit. str., from Moji.
29, Devonshire, British str., from Cardiff.
29, Else, German str., from Taintan.
29, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
29, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
29, Hongmoh, British str., from traits.
29, Iyo Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
29, Jeserie, British str., from Weihaiwei.
29, Nestor, British str., from Liverpool.
29, Tonkin, French str., from Marseilles.
30, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
30, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
30, Clara Jensen, German str., from Hoihow.
30, Coromandel, British str., from Yokohama.
30, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
30, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
30, unan, British str., from Iloilo.
30, Quarta, German str., from Chefoo.
30, Shantnug, German str., from Foochow.
July—DEPARTURES.
25, C. Ferd. Laeisz, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
25, China, German str., for Swatow.
25, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
25, Toonan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
25, Tientsin, (ruan str., for Swatow.
26, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Swatow.
26, Candia, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Daijin Ma u, Japanese str., for Swatow.
26, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
26, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
26, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
26, Hector, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Satsuma, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Tamba Maru, Japanese str., for Hongkong.
26, Thea, German str., for Canton.
26, Tsinan, British str., for Kobe.
27, Hailo ng, British str., for Swatow.
27, Kennebsee, British str., for New York.
27, Kwangtsh, Chinese str., for Canton.
27, Loyal, German str., for Hongkong.
27, Lyemo n, German str., for Canton.
27, Singan, British str., for Canton.
27, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
27, Taiyuan, British str., for Sydney.
27, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
28, Catherine Apear, British str., for Calcutta.
28, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
28, Dharwar, Swedish barque, for New York.
28, Empire, British str., for Shanghai.
28, Korea, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
28, Lucha, German gunboat, for Amoy.
28, Maidzuru Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
28, Paoting, British str., for Ningpo.
28, Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
28, Polynesien, French str., for Europe.
28, Riojun Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
28, Thales, British str., for Coast Ports.
28, Verona, German str., for Manila.
28, Yunnan, British str., for Kobe.
29, Bygdo, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
29, Chinkiang, British str., for Canton.
29, Else, German str., for Canton.
29, Guthrie, British str., for Kobe.
29, Kinshiu Maru, Japanese str., for Bombay.
29, Pleiades, American str., for Manila.
29, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
29, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
29, Tonkin, French str., for Shanghai.
29, Amigo, German str., for Saigon.
30, Australian, British str., for Sydney.
30, Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
30, Devonshire, British str., for Weihaiwei.
30, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
30, Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.
30, Jeserie, British str., for Calcutta.
30, Maria Rickmers, Ger. str., for Swatow.
30, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
30, Nestor, British str., for Shanghai.

30, P. C. Klao, German str., for Bangkok.
30, Simongan, Dutch str., for Samarang.
30, Sithonia, German str., for Yokohama.
30, Wurzburg, German str., for Hamburg.

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Per *Korea*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Dell, Lieut. and Mrs. A. R. Walker, General Wittier, Miss Wittier, Messrs. Fuhrmann, F. F. Spethman, W. E. Grey, J. W. Bolles, Alf. Melbye, Le Francois and A. Marques, for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Avery, Messrs. E. H. Hinds, Geo. J. Cox and S. Hader, for Kobe, Messrs. R. G. Smithers, Allan Cameron, Martin, E. Antaki and Weisberger, for Yokohama, Capt. and Mrs. C. J. Clarke, Messrs. F. W. Taggart, W. Strachan, E. E. Lockart, C. W. Bush, P. M. Greenwood and S. Yamazaki, for Honolulu, Mrs. Maria and Mr. Seraph En Chang, for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. C. E. Townsend, Miss A. Townsend, Messrs. Dole Townsend and David Townsend, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. A. Tracey, Master Geo. A. Tracey, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Thomas, Lieut. and Mrs. J. D. Beure, Mrs. P. C. Freer, Mrs. J. W. Bolles, Miss H. M. Bolles, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Lloyd, Dr. W. R. Davis, Dr. B. Ffolkes, U.S.A., Misses J. Allen and Goodrich, Messrs. Carl H. Page, H. C. Dens n, J. E. Ainsworth, C. H. Stone, J. Meirowitz, A. L. Mace, C. A. Wolf, L. B. Harris, H. E. Wolf, J. Jaspin, J. Petrie and Master F. Rodgers.

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